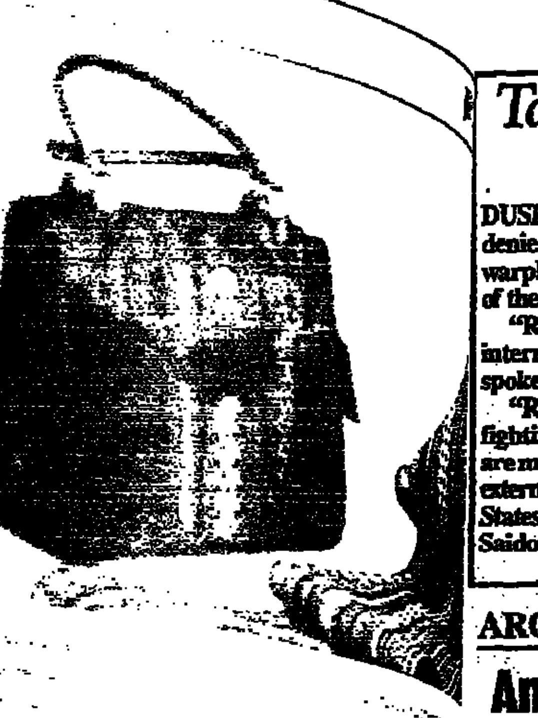




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Tajik Authorities Deny Air Raid

DUSHANBE (AFP) — Tajik authorities Thursday denied an allegation by Islamic activists that Russian warplanes attacked the town of Tavil-Dara in the east of the former Soviet republic and virtually destroyed it.

"Russian forces are not participating in the internal conflict in Tajikistan," said presidential spokesman Zafar Saidov.

"Russian warplanes have not been used in the fighting in that region (Tavil-Dara). Russian troops are maintaining neutrality and are only defending the external borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border," Saidov said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Turkish Troops Follow PKK into Northern Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish troops carried out military operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq this week, military sources here said.

"We are receiving reports about a military operation in northern Iraq," a military source told AFP, without giving further details.

The Anatolia news agency reported that 50 Kurdish rebels had been killed during Turkish military operations in the Cukurca region along the border with Iraq.

The agency earlier stated that 72 Kurdish rebels and six Turkish soldiers were also killed in Turkish Army sweeps in the east and southeast of the country.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

ARCHER:

Anti Iran-Libya Bill Wrong Approach

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — A House of Representatives committee on Thursday approved a compromise bill strengthening U.S. sanctions against Iran and Libya but giving the president considerable latitude in carrying them out.

The compromise bill, considerably modified from an earlier tougher version, would target third country citizens investing in Iran and Libya.

Such sanctions have created strains with America's European allies, who have reacted with anger to the pending Iran-Libya bill and to Cuba sanctions legislation recently signed into law.

The Iran-Libya bill was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee after chairman Bill Archer, a Texas Republican, called it the wrong approach.

"It imposes unilateral sanctions on our trading partners, exposes U.S. exporters and investors to possible retaliation and puts the United States at the center of a dispute with our allies over appropriate policies toward Iran and Libya," Archer said.

But he said the compromise offered by Rep Philip Crane, Republican of Illinois, provided "adequate discretion for the administration to exercise the provisions of this bill judiciously."

The bill would target for sanctions persons investing at

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Egypt Sees Al-Khalil as 'First Test' for Netanyahu



NABLUS, West Bank (June 12): Palestinian women engage with Palestinian policewomen in the West Bank town of Nablus during a demonstration to demand release of their relatives from Palestinian jails. (AFP PHOTO)

Compiled From Dispatches

TEHRAN — Egypt sees Israel's planned withdrawal from most of the West Bank town of Al-Khalil as a test of prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu's commitment to the peace process, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa said Friday, AFP reported.

"Our understanding is that Mr. Netanyahu intends to respect the commitment undertaken by the outgoing government to withdraw from Hebron(Al-Khalil)," Mussa told the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharonot*.

"But if not, we will lose our confidence in Israel's will to make peace," he said. "In that case, Israeli-Arab peace will become something purely 'platonic.' In other words, it will lose all substance."

Al-Khalil is right-wing Likud leader Netanyahu's "first test," he said.

Israel has just missed a June 12 date for rolling back its 28-year military occupation of the West Bank town, and the redeployment, provided for in autonomy accords concluded by Israel and the Palestinians, is now three months behind its original schedule.

Meanwhile according to AP, a leading aide to PLO chief Yasser Arafat warned Friday that there will be "no peace" unless Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu honors the outgoing government's pledge to withdraw troops from Al-Khalil.

"His choice is between peace and no peace. There is no option in between," said Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erakat. He said Israel must also establish "safe passage" routes between Gaza and the West Bank and release more Palestinian prisoners.

Arafat and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council are in Nablus for meetings on the implications of Israel's change of government.

Erbakan, Ciller Fail to Agree on Premiership

ANKARA (AFP) — The leader of Turkey's pro-Islamic Welfare Party, Necmettin Erbakan, and former Premier Tansu Ciller failed Friday to form a coalition government, but would meet again next week, sources close to the leaders said.

"Their talks have been locked up on who will be prime minister," one source said.

"We will evaluate Mr. Erbakan's proposals for a coalition," Ciller said at a brief news conference after a three-hour meeting with Erbakan. She did not elaborate on the nature of Erbakan's proposals.

Erbakan told another news conference that Ciller's conservative True Path Party would give its formal reply to his proposals next Thursday.

"We will see Thursday whether we will be able to set up a coalition with True Path," Erbakan said. He also did not explain the context of his proposals.

Erbakan was authorized to form a new Cabinet last Friday after Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz resigned the previous day.

The Welfare Party came first in the December general elections but fell short of an absolute majority in Parliament.

The Islamists also failed in their efforts to find a coalition partner to bring them to power as Yilmaz and Ciller finally set up their coalition in March.

However, this government was then wracked by internal dissent as the two leaders played out their bitter rivalry.

Eventually Yilmaz had to step down after Ciller pulled back her support from the Cabinet.

Ciller's True Path Party last week gave initial signs of a possible coalition with Welfare.

President Rafsanjani's Verbal Message Conveyed to Demirel

ANKARA (IRNA) — Iran's Minister of Housing and Urbanization, Abbas Akhondi, conferred with the President of Turkey, Suleyman Demirel, at the International Habitat-2 Conference in Istanbul on Thursday.

Akhondi presented the Turkish president with the verbal message of his Iranian President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Demirel warmly received Akhondi and described relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey as brotherly, calling for expansion of these relations.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

New Bangladeshi Government to Be Formed Under Wajed

DHAKA (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed began work Friday on forming a new Bangladeshi government following the victory of her party, the Awami League, in general elections

(Contd on Pg. 14)



DHAKA, Bangladesh: The results of 271 of the 300 Bangladesh parliamentary constituencies declared on Friday as the Awami League won the majority of the votes. Voting took place in 26,000 polling stations nationwide and foreign observers called the elections "free and fair". (AFP PHOTO)

Rockets Kill 5 in Kabul

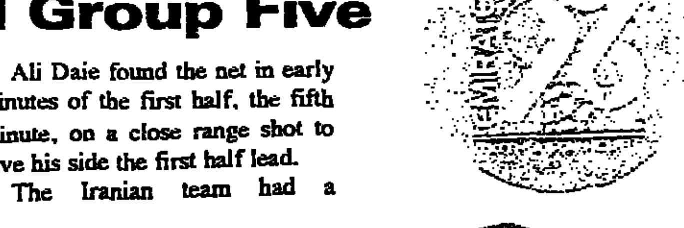
ISLAMABD (AFP) — At least five people were killed and seven injured in a rocket attack on Kabul, the government-conrolled Radio Kabul said Thursday.

The radio, monitored here, said an unspecified number of rockets hit residential areas in the capital. It blamed the rival Taleban militia for the attack.

The Taleban, a force of ethnic Pushtun fighters, has been besieging Kabul for more than eight months in a bid to topple the

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Iran Overpowers Oman 2-0 to Lead Group Five



Tehran Times Service

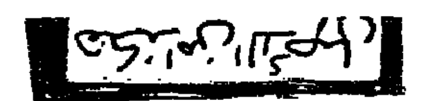
TEHRAN — Iran outclassed Omanese soccer team 2-0 in the last game of Group Five preliminary matches of Asia Soccer Championship here yesterday.

Ali Daie found the net in early minutes of the first half, the fifth minute, on a close range shot to give his side the first half lead.

The Iranian team had a number of golden chances in the first half but could not capitalize on them positively.

(Contd on Pg. 14)





هكذا من الأصل

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In The Name of Allah

And this was Our argument which we gave to Ibrahim against his people; We exalt in dignity whom We please; surely your lord is Wise, Knowing.

(HOLY QORAN) (6:83)

OPINION

U.S. Secondary Sanctions: Flogging a Dead Horse

A bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee on Thursday calling for U.S. sanctions to be applied to foreign companies investing in Iranian oil.

The key proponent of the bill is the Republican Senator Alfonse d'Amato who is known for his pro-Zionist inclinations. The fact that the bill was passed with the help of the Clinton Administration and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the largest pro-Israel lobbying group in the United States, indicates that the Zionist forces are once again at work to influence presidential elections in the United States.

The bill which will become a law after the approval of the House, the Senate and Bill Clinton, is doomed to fail for three reasons: Iran's strength, enabling it to offset the sanctions; vociferous international reactions to the U.S. domineering tendencies and; the opposition of the U.S. entrepreneurs, industrialists and academicians to the Zionist-influenced sanctions.

The bill is not the first of its kind to call for the punishment of foreign companies. On March 12, Clinton enacted the Helms-Burton law allowing former owners of land expropriated by the government of President Fidel Castro to sue foreign companies that have since bought their land from the Cuban government. The Helms-Burton law drew angry protests from Mexico, Canada and other U.S. allies. The EU and Russia strongly reacted to the law, calling it an infringement upon their sovereignty.

When the U.S. imposed economic sanctions on Iran last year, the White House predicted to bring the Iranian government to its knees within a fortnight. But on the anniversary of the sanctions, almost all analysts confirmed that the sanctions had little impact on Iran's economy.

Moreover, the U.S. companies have been the main losers of the U.S. embargo against Iran. According to the available statistics, the U.S. companies have lost some 2 billion dollars due to the sanctions imposed on Iran. This is why even some of the U.S. politicians and industrialists are strongly opposed to such measures. Bill Archer, a Texas Republican and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the committee that has passed the bill, has termed the move as a wrong approach.

Iran has successfully replaced the U.S. firms and companies with foreign bidders in the aftermath of the embargo. Moreover, the sanctions have not been able to affect us, for we have constructed a strong infrastructure enabling our economy to withstand such shocks. Our economy is not as fragile as the U.S. statesmen envisaged. Hence, the secondary sanctions, like the first ones, are doomed to fail.

Although the influence of the Zionist circles on the U.S. policymakers are too ample to leave any room for any hope for the bill to be killed in the House or the Senate, let's not forget that there are still prominent figures in the United States of America whose hearts beat for their national interest, pride and prestige. Here is an example: Bill Archer says, the sanctions "expose U.S. exporters to possible retaliation and puts the United States at the center of a dispute with our allies over appropriate policies toward Iran and Libya."

Only such personalities can rescue the U.S. from the clutches of a bunch of crooks who have completely surrendered America to the Zionist pressure groups.

The world community has realized today that no country should assume that it has the right to tell companies in other countries how they should behave in the Third World.

The U.S. unilateral actions and extra-territorial statutes indeed are contrary to the provisions of the WTO, destroying free trade. They pose serious threat to the economic and commercial interests of the European Union, Japan and other members of the community of nations.

This is why other countries, specially the members of the European Union, have vehemently protested against such unilateral actions. In fact, the U.S. secondary sanctions are an attempt by the U.S. to make its trading rivals capitulate to its bullying.

We are sure the EU and other industrial nations will not allow the White House to go ahead with its trade bullying. U.S. trade partners should renew their strong objections to such measures at the meeting of the G7 in France later this month.

Squandering Public Assets Treachery to People

Tehran Times Service



Abbas Takin — Tehran Times

TEHRAN — This week's Friday prayer was held at the campus of Tehran University with a large number of Tehran's residents taking part in the congregation. The prayer was led by the substitute Friday prayer leader and a member of the Guardians Council, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati.

In the first sermon, Jannati touched on the issue of economic discipline and the urgency of preventing extravagance and squandering.

He noted that social justice cannot be administered without doing away with wastefulness.

The member of the Guardians Council called on the government executives to abstain from wasting public assets, adding that any violation in this regard is tantamount to betrayal of the people.

In the second sermon, Jannati stressed that the Iranian people and government executives and officials should follow the guidelines of the Grand Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, which were expressed on the occasion of the inauguration of the Fifth Majlis and also during the Leader's recent meetings with the Iranian universities' staff and the executives of the Judiciary.

The ayatollah went on to say, "Although the grand Leader puts considerable emphasis on the country's development and construction and has advised the people to do their utmost in this regard, he has also stressed that the Islamic values should by no means be undermined and disregarded while achieving the above objective."

Jannati further said, "The Parliament deputies should act upon the directions of the grand Leader and the people should ask their representatives to carry out the Leader's guidelines."

He also reminded the gathering of the Leader's recent remarks indicating that the Iranian universities are not totally observing the Islamic rules. The prayer leader reiterated that as long as undedicated officials are in charge of the universities' affairs, Islamizing the universities is not possible. Therefore, he added, pious officials should be assigned to the job as the first step to this end.

Referring to the Leader's statements made in his meeting with some executives of the Judiciary, the ayatollah expressed his gratitude to the Judiciary officials for their efforts at dealing with the legal suits and punishing the convicts in the shortest possible time.

He also called for severe measures against those who do not comply with law and firmly dealing with the violations reported by the Iranian Parliament's investigating committees.

Over 7,600,000 Children Under 5 Vaccinated Against Polio

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Over 7,600,000 Iranian Children under five years of age were vaccinated nationwide against polio in the second phase of the third round of the polio eradication campaign Friday.

A total of 250,000 basijis (volunteers) contributed in vaccination of the children against the disease in a house-to-house campaign in rural areas and at 15,336 bases in urban ones.

The basijis were also offer each family having children under five a package of iodine salt.

The first phase of the third round of the vaccination campaign was conducted on May 10.

Talking to IRNA, Minister of Health Ali Reza Marandi termed outcome of the first phase of the third round of the operations as "fully satisfactory," saying that a total of 7,600,000 children had been vaccinated against polio last May.

The first round of the vaccination campaign was conducted in 1994 and the second in 1995.

Iran, Azerbaijan Discuss Security Issues

BAKU (IRNA) — The Iranian Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Alireza Bigdeli, in a meeting here Thursday with Azerbaijan's Minister of Security Affairs, Namik Abbasov, discussed avenues of expanding cooperation between the two countries on security issues.

Referring to the long border between the two countries, Bigdeli underlined the need for cooperation between the border officials of Iran and Azerbaijan aimed at checking smugglers, especially those involved in drug trafficking.

Earlier in the day, the Iranian ambassador met Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister, Hassan Hassanov, to discuss the latest developments in the region and the world, including issues of interest to both countries.

Kazakh Parliament Endorses Accord With Iran

ALMATY (IRNA) — Kazakh Parliament endorsed an agreement concluded with Iran, based on which the two countries would encourage and support investment in each other's countries.

Kazakhstan television on Friday said that the agreement was approved by the overwhelming majority of the parliamentarians in that country.

The agreement was signed during the visit to Almaty of Iran's First Vice-President Hassan Habibi in December 1995.

IRGC Chief: U.S. Unable to Grasp Faith, Spiritual Power of Islamic Forces

SHIRAZ, Fars Prov., (IRNA) — "The U.S. is unable to grasp the faith and spiritual power of the forces of Islam and is quite helpless against the martyrdom-seeking spirit of the Islamic combatants," said Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), Major General Mohsen Rezaie here Thursday.



The IRGC chief, addressing a 33,000-member gathering of IRGC and Basiji (volunteer) forces, said that those who listen to the analysis of a few listless liberals had better take a look at this magnificent gathering of the stalwart revolutionary forces and, therefore, revise their assumptions.

"The staunch Islamic forces warn all those who, either due to ignorance or having a vested interest, have staged a cultural war at the Iranian universities, newspapers and foreign news agencies, that the victory of the forces of Islam in defending their culture is certain, as they achieved victory on the battle fields," he said.

Rezaie stressed the IRGC and Basiji forces are fully prepared to act with firm determination on the cultural front in order to safeguard and accomplish the ideals of the Islamic Revolution.

He added the Muslim Iranian people have always shown in the course of the ups and downs of the Revolution that they firmly support the leadership.

Later at a press conference, Rezaie said that, presently, the IRGC is engaged in the implementation of reconstruction projects in the country, with an expenditure of some rls. 250 billion.

He also announced that, soon, the mass production of a special assault tank designed by the IRGC to withstand air strikes will be initiated.



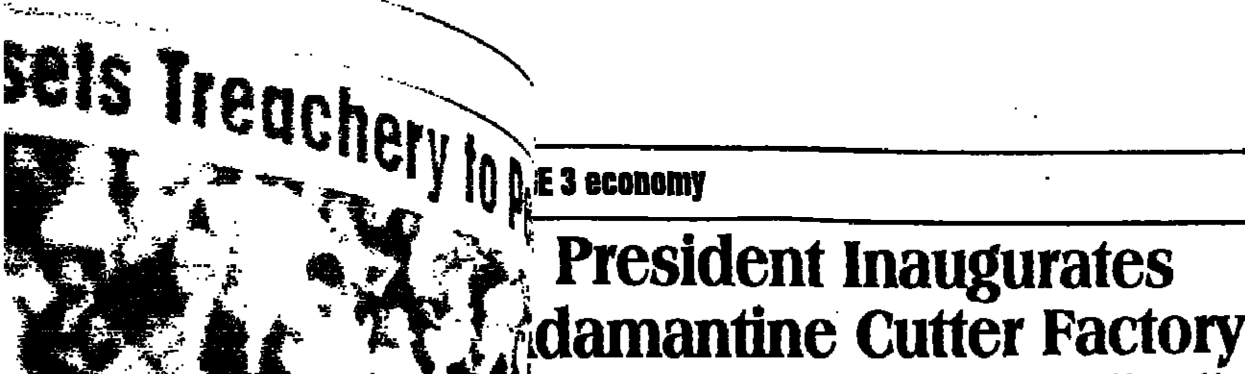
Provincial Governor General Meets Astara Border Residents

ASTARA (IRNA)— Governor General of Gilan Province, Ali Akbar Tahaei, conferred with the border dwellers of Astara at the prayer hall of the province on Thursday.

During the meeting, the residents of Astara Port raised their problems in different fields with the officials.

Governor general of Gilan said regular meetings will be held between officials and the people in order for both sides to become more acquainted with each other and help to remove problems of the province.

Tahaei added that with the commissioning of the multi-purpose Port of Astara, Astara railroad and the common border market in the near future, a major unemployment problem will be resolved in the province.



President Inaugurates adamantine Cutter Factory

Tehran Times Service

IRAN — President Akbar hemi Rafsanjani in Qazvin on rsday called on personnel of a ory producing adamantine ers, to increase production and the government will support r efforts, IRNA reported.

He said Islamic Iran is blessed an abudnant variety of raw erials which could be put to per use by the committed and ert forces of the country to help n find its real place among rld states.

The adamantine cutter factory ipped with modern machinery situated at Hashtgerd some 8 s from Qazvin (128 kms west Tehran).

Meanwhile President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Thursday inaugurated the operation work of a factory producing infant foods in Qazvin.

The factory, built at a cost of Rls.13.134 billion plus 13.039 million German marks in foreign exchange, is the biggest one of its kind in Middle East.

It will produce 70 different kinds of foods for infants beside a variety of diets and special foods for elderly people, under the trade name of Turang, and with an annual capacity of 7,500 tons.

The Agriculture Bank of Iran and the private sector have financilly sponsored the factory.

Locomotive Overhauling Plant to Start Operations Soon

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A locomotive reconstruction and renovation plant is to be put into operation in Karaj, 45 kms west of here, by the year end (to end March 21, 1997), IRNA reported.

The complex, unique in its kind in the Middle East, is to be set up on a 380,000 square-meter plot of land, at a cost of Rls. 25 billion plus $42 million in foreign exchange.

The plant would be capable of overhauling 60 locomotives and 84 locomotive engines annually.

Clinton Urged to Veto Iran Sanctions Bill

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Clinton should be the first to appreciate knowing how much is at risk by misconceived U.S. laws aimed at enforcing the rest of the world to impose trade sanctions on such countries as Iran, Libya and Cuba, says a UK daily.

More than any other American president, he has emphasized the importance of exports and overseas investment to U.S. prosperity and employment, the *Financial Times* said in an editorial Friday.

It suggested that Clinton had good reason to listen to the conspicuously low-key role played by the U.S. business community that should speak up now to press him to veto the Iran-Libya bill emerging from congress.

The daily said that American business leaders should also urge the president to exercise his prerogative to waive the most damaging provisions of the Helms-Burton Act against Cuba before they take effect in August.

Its warning was that protests from U.S. allies over the use of extra-territorial legislation was in serious danger of escalating into increasingly aggressive international retaliation in which there would be no winners and the economies of all would suffer.

The call for Clinton to intervene came as the House of Representatives approved a watered-down bill Thursday targeting foreign companies investing in Iran and Libya's oil and gas industries.

It also coincided with reports of the European Union stepping up pressure on Clinton at a summit in Washington Thursday to shelve part of the Cuban bill and similar legislation aimed at Iran and Libya.

European Commission Jacques Santer was said to have complained that it was not justifiable or effective for one country to impose its tactics on others and to threaten friends while targeting adversaries.

Canada is reported to be already considering legislation to counter the law against Cuba, while Britain has been looking at invoking a 1980 law that entitles UK firms to counter-sue against punitive damages awarded by foreign courts.

New Mechanical Shovel for Wheat Designed

Tehran Tiems Service

EHRAN — A mobile echanical shovel for offloading heat has been designed and anufactured by a staff member of e rural cooperatives rganization of Bojnourd, horasan province, at a cost of ls.three million, IRNA reported.

Head of the organization Moammad-Reza Nabati said in Boourd Thursday that the machine as capable of offloading 1.5 tons f wheat per minute, whereas the inimum time spent for the purose through the traditional nethod was three hours for the ame amount.

Nabati added that the cost of offloading each ton of wheat hrough the traditional system was Rls.1,500, whereas the newly designed system had lowered the cost down to a mere Rls.400.

Japan Okays $6m, Seoul $250,000 in N. Korean Aid

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese government Friday officially approved a plan to provide six million dollars in emergency food aid to help alleviate hunger in North Korea.

The money will include $3.1 million for food for people affected by flooding that destroyed crops last year and $2.15 million for infant food through the UN's world food program.

A further $750,000 will also be offered to the UN Children's Fund and the World Health Organization for their operations in North Korea.

The United Nations has appealed for $43.6 million. The United States has already said it would provide $6.2 million in emergency food aid to North Korea. The South Korean government has pledged three million dollars, in milk and baby powder.

Tokyo provided $500,000 to Pyongyang last year in response to a similar UN call for aid.

In Seoul Friday, the South Korean National Red Cross (KNRC) said Friday it would send an additional $256,400, worth of wheat flour to the North.

It will be the KNRC's fifth aid shipment since November, 1995, when South Korea allowed private organizations to deliver aid for Pyongyang through Red Cross channels.

The date for the KNRC's new shipment will be decided later, the spokesman said.

Since November, KNRC has sent 10,000 blankets, 100,000 servings of instant noodles, 20,000 pairs of socks and 186,000 litres (46,000 gallons) of edible oil.

The Seoul government, responding to a UN appeal, announced a three-million-dollar aid package for North Korea this week, to match a total of $12.2 million offered by Japan and the United States.

Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador to South Korea James Laney issued a clarification about the amount of crop insurance paid out by Western firms last year.

He told a U.S.-South Korea forum that North Korea received $13 million, and not $130 million as was reported by South Korean dailies last week, a U.S. envoy said Friday.

Laney added the North has problems staying insured because of its failure to pay premiums.

Kamali Addresses ILC Confab

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Social poverty and underdevelopment are the causes of child labor and its exploitation, said Iran's Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Hussein Kamali in Geneva.

Kamali, who was addressing labor ministers from 173 states at the International Labor Conference (ILC) on Wednesday, said that the remedy to this inhumane issue, which retards the progress of children from the lower rungs of the social ladder and prevents them from getting proper education, lay in sound plannings both at the national and international levels, IRNA reported.

He said that among major achievements of Iran's Labor and Social Affairs Ministry in this regard was the banning of employment of children under 15 and conditional employment for those in the 15-18 age group.

He added that laws such as those enacted in Islamic Iran were the logical ways of campaign against poverty and of creating job and educational opportunities.

Iran has retained its membership at the managerial board of the International Labor Organization for the next three years.

EU Rightwing Leaders Appeal to Britain Over "Madcow" Strategy

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Conservative EU government leaders appealed here Tuesday night to Britain to halt its policy of obstructing European Union business to secure an agreement on lifting the embargo on British beef exports.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, John Bruton of Ireland, Jean-Luc Dehaene of Belgium and Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg endorsed the appeal after a meeting in the European Parliament with the incumbent President of the EU Council of Ministers, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and the President of the European Commission Jacques Santer.

The Leader of the European Popular Party former Belgian prime minister Wilfried Martens said after the meeting that the British attitude had been judged by everyone to be "unacceptable".

Martens said while it was not possible to speak of "an optimistic atmosphere, everyone was resolved". Martens quoted Kohl as saying that "whatever happens, the European caravan will go through.".

He said there was "not much time before the florence summit" on June 21-22 to reach a framework agreement for a phased lifting of the embargo on British beef. The ban was imposed on march 27 in response to fears that bovine spongiform encephalopathy or "madcow disease" affecting mainly British herds, could be transmitted to humans from contaminated meat.

Qatar to Attend Tehran Trade Fair

Tehran Time Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Doha Seyyed Baqer Sakhaie and Qatari Oil and Industries Minister Abdullah bin Hamd al-Atiyah discussed Tehran-Doha ties and holding of a joint oil- gas technical committee in Doha, (UAE) on Thursday, IRNA reported.

Sakhaie submitted Al-Atiyah a message from Industries Minister Moahmmad-Reza Nematzadeh inviting Qatar to take part in the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair, which is to be held in the first week of October.

Al-Atiyah said that Qatar was ready to take part in the fair.

Titanium, Phosphate Reserves Discovered in Orumieh

Tehran Times Serivce

TEHRAN — A titanium mine along with rich phosphate reserves, has been discovered around Orumieh, Director General of Mines and Metals Office in West Azarbaijan province Ali Qarabaghian announced Thursday.

Qarabaghian said the mine is expected to yield 150 million tons of mineral stone, over 10 million tons of titanium and over two million tons of phosphate, IRNA reported.

He added that the mine spans an area of 600 square meters with separate geological layers. The one having an estimated 100 million tons of igneous rocks, containing titanium and phosphate, lies 50 meters deep under the surface while the second layer contains 52 million tons of mineral substances.

The official said the mine contained between one and five percent of phosphate with titanium comprising ten percent of mineral rocks in the central layer and eight percent in other layers.



SANTIAGO, Chile (June 12): Chilean police stop approximately 2,000 protesting miners in front of the presidential palace in Santiago. The marchers are supporting fellow miners from the mine in Lota, where the workers are trying to have 97 co-workers reinstated after a three week general strike.

(AFP PHOTO)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday, June 13.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,385	1,392	2,377	2,389
Austria	schilling	162	163	277	279
Belgium	(100)francs	5,528	5,560	9,490	9,537
Canada	dollar	1,279	1,286	2,195	2,206
Denmark	krone	295	297	506	509
France	franc	336	338	576	579
Germany	mark	1,137	1,143	1,952	1,962
Holland	guilder	1,016	1,022	1,744	1,753
Italy	(100)liras	113	114	194	195
Japan	(100)yen	1,598	1,607	2,743	2,757
Sweden	krone	260	262	447	449
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,684	2,699	4,607	4,630
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

A Poet, A Poem

This Week: Sterling Brown

Tehran Times Service

Last week when we introduced Langston Hughes and his beautiful poem *Harlem*, we talked a bit about the prevailing social injustice in the United States of America, particularly against blacks and Muslims. This week, we will take a brief look at the life and a poem of another American poet, which further portrays the roots of the agony imposed in minorities in this so called land of opportunities, which also claims to be the sole protector of human rights as well.

Sterling Brown is one of the greatest contemporary American poets. He was born in 1901 in Washington, D.C. He was a poet, editor, folklorist and teacher. *The Negro Caravan*, of which he was one of three editors, remains today one of the most important anthologies of Afro-Americans ever assembled.

His book of poems, *Southern Road*, published in 1932, remains one of the landmark volumes in poetry published in America in this century. *Thirty-Six Poems*, *Thirty-Six years After*, was printed privately in 1974. Also *The Last Ride of Wild Bill, and Eleven Ballads* was published in 1974.

Strong Men

The strong men keep coming on.—*Sandburg*

They dragged you from the homeland,
They chained you in coffles,
They huddled you spoon-fashion in filthy hatches,
They sold you to give a few gentlemen ease.

They broke you in like oxen,
They scourged you,
They branded you,
They made your women breeders,
They swelled your numbers with bastards . . .
They taught you the religion they disgraced.
You sang:
Keep a-inchin' along
Lak a po' inch worm . . .
You sang:
By and bye
I'm gonna lay down this heaby load . . .
You sang:
Walk togedder, chillen,
Dontcha git weary . . .
The strong men keep a-comin' on
The strong men get stronger.

They point with pride to the roads you built for them,
They ride in comfort over the rails you laid for them.
They put hammers in your hands
And said—Drive so much before sundown.
You sang:
Ain't no hammah
In dis lan'
Strikes lak mine, bebby,
Strikes lak mine.
They cooped you in their kitchens,
They penned you in their factories,
They gave you the jobs that they were too good for,
They tried to guarantee happiness to themselves
By shunting dirt and misery to you.
You sang:
Me an' muh baby gonna shine, shine
Me an' muh baby gonna shine.
The strong men keep a-comin' on
The strong men git stronger . . .

They bought off some of your leaders
You stumbled, as blind men will . . .
They coaxed you, unwontedly soft-voiced . . .
You followed a way.
Then laughed as usual.
They heard the laugh and wondered;
Uncomfortable;
Unadmitting a deeper terror . . .
The strong men keep a-comin' on
Gittin' stronger . . .

What, from the slums
Where they have hemmed you,
What, from the tiny huts
They could not keep from you—
What reaches them
Making them ill at ease, fearful?

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Swedish Film Institute Auctions Off Rare Movie Memorabilia

STOCKHOLM, (AFP) — Sweden's Film Institute will on June 17 auction off movie memorabilia, including unpublished photos of Greta Garbo, a Cadillac used in the 1989 *Batman* movie and an early poster of Ingrid Bergman, the Stockholm Auction House said Thursday.

The most spectacular item is a black Cadillac Fleetwood driven by Jack Nicholson as the joker in *Batman*, which was previously owned by former US President and movie star Ronald Reagan. The bid is set at 200,000 kronor (29,850$).

One of the rarest items up for bids is a poster from the 1936 Swedish movie *Intermezzo*, featuring a young and unknown Ingrid Bergman in a supporting role.

A large number of unpublished Greta Garbo photos, some with personal dedications, and 130 Soviet propaganda films aimed at Swedish schoolchildren from the 1960s, are also up for sale.

Novel on Life of Neil Davis Wins Award

SYDNEY, (AFP) - A novel based partly on the life of photojournalist Neil Davis, who was killed during a failed coup in Thailand, won Australia's top literary prize.

Top favorite Christopher Koch took the Miles Franklin Award for *Highways to a War*.

His novel tells the story of Mike Langford, a war photographer with a reputation for taking risks, who disappears in Cambodia after its fall to the Khmer Rouge.

Commentators here said that the character was loosely based on award-winning photojournalist Neil Davis who covered conflicts in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War onwards and died filming a failed coup in Bangkok in September 1985.

Highways to a War explores the byways which led Langford to war and his ultimate fate.

The hero gives his emotional allegiance to the badly-led South Vietnamese and Cambodian troops whose dangers he shares, and he eventually puts down his camera and picks up a gun.

Tasmanian-born Koch, who gained worldwide praise for his novel set in Indonesia, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, in 1978, had first won the 25,000-Australian-dollar (19,500 US$) Miles Franklin Award in 1985 for *The Doubleman*.

In contrast to last year's winner, the judges picked an established novelist with solid literary credentials who published his first book in 1958 aged 25.

Last year's choice, Helen Demidenko for her first book *The Hand that Signed the Paper*, embroiled the award in months of bitter controversy when the author was revealed to be Helen Darville.

As Demidenko, she claimed to be the daughter of poor Ukranian migrants, but was actually the daughter of English migrants.

1st Prize Winner of 16th S. Korean Photo Contest:

All I Could Do Was Registering the Agony of Kurds

Tehran times Service

BAYAT

TEHRAN — Abasalt Bayat 43, won the first prize of Seoul International Photo Contest last week for his photograph entitled *Mohaajerat* (The Immigration). This was the first time he participated in an international event.

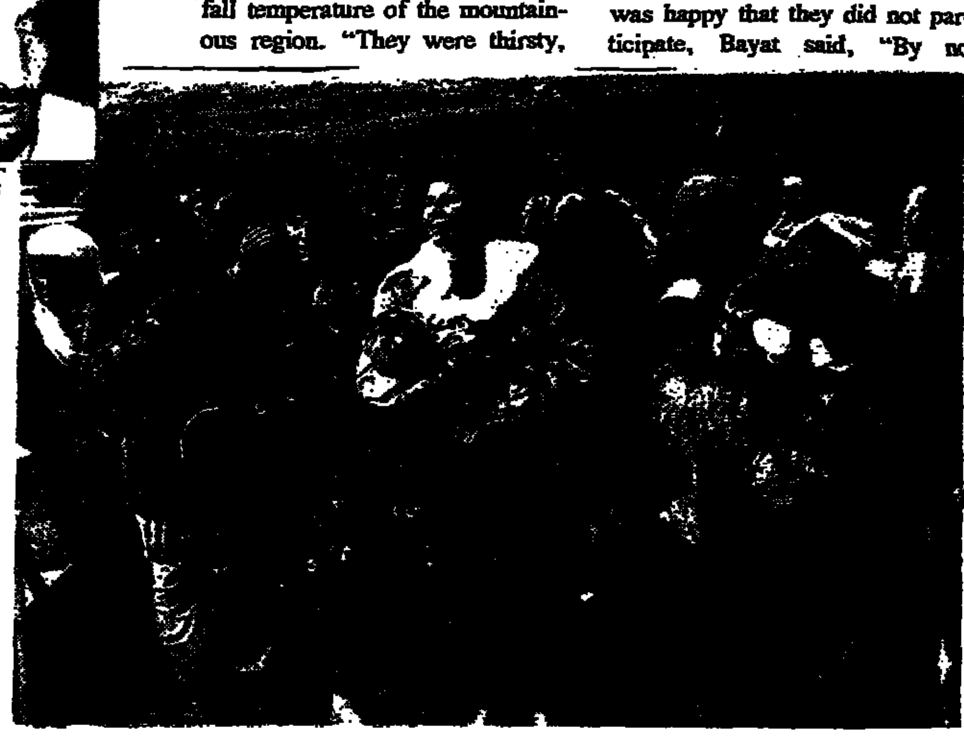
Bayat began his professional work twenty years ago, as a photographer for the Tourist Attraction Organization during the Shah's regime. After the outbreak of the imposed war he spent most of his time taking photographs at the war fronts. He is now shooting snaps for the newly established Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO).

The prize winning photograph registers a very sentimental moment of the agony and pain of a group of innocent Iraqi Kurdish women and children, forced to leave their homes in the chilly, fall temperature of the mountainous region. "They were thirsty, frightened and desperate," said Bayat in an interview with the morning daily *Iran*, "and all I could do was to register this bitter moment."

"I went to Seoul on an invitation made by the Korean Photographers' Syndicate at my own expense, but the ICRO has promised to cover the charges," he said.

The American photographers ranked seventh at the contest and so they did not appear at the press conference at the end of the exhibition. When asked whether he was happy that they did not participate, Bayat said, "By no means, we have nothing against the American people and they themselves know it as well."

Iran's reporter asked Bayat about the best memory he has of his photojournalism career. "That is the moment in the war fronts when an Iraqi fighter plane, which was flying very low, started bombing us. I am very sorry that I could not take a photograph at that moment."



The prize winning photograph, "Mohaajerat"

Courtesy Iran Newspaper



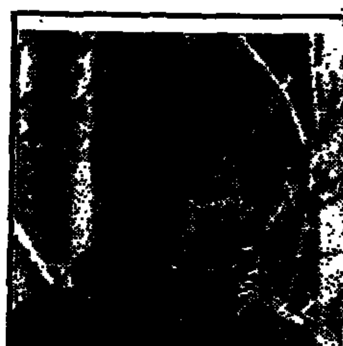
The Last Reconnaissance
(Aakaarin Shenaasaaie)

The Crew:

Director: Ali Shah-Hatami; Producers: Arts Bureau of the Islamic Propagation Organization, Center for Promotion of Experimental Cinema; Screenplay: B. Behzadpour, A Shah Hatami; Cinematography: Mohammad Taqi Paksima; Editing: B. Behzadpour; Music: Fariborz Lachini; Set designer: Parviz Sheikh; Makeup: Fereydoon Kashan-Fallah; Sound recordist: Mohsen Roshan; Special effects: Mohsen Rouzbehani; Production manager: Mojtaba Faravardeh; Cast: Farzin Azhdari, Peyman Shariati, Gholamreza Ali Akbari, Reza Qowmi, Mohammad Poursattar and Reza Tavakkoli.

Director's Short Biography:

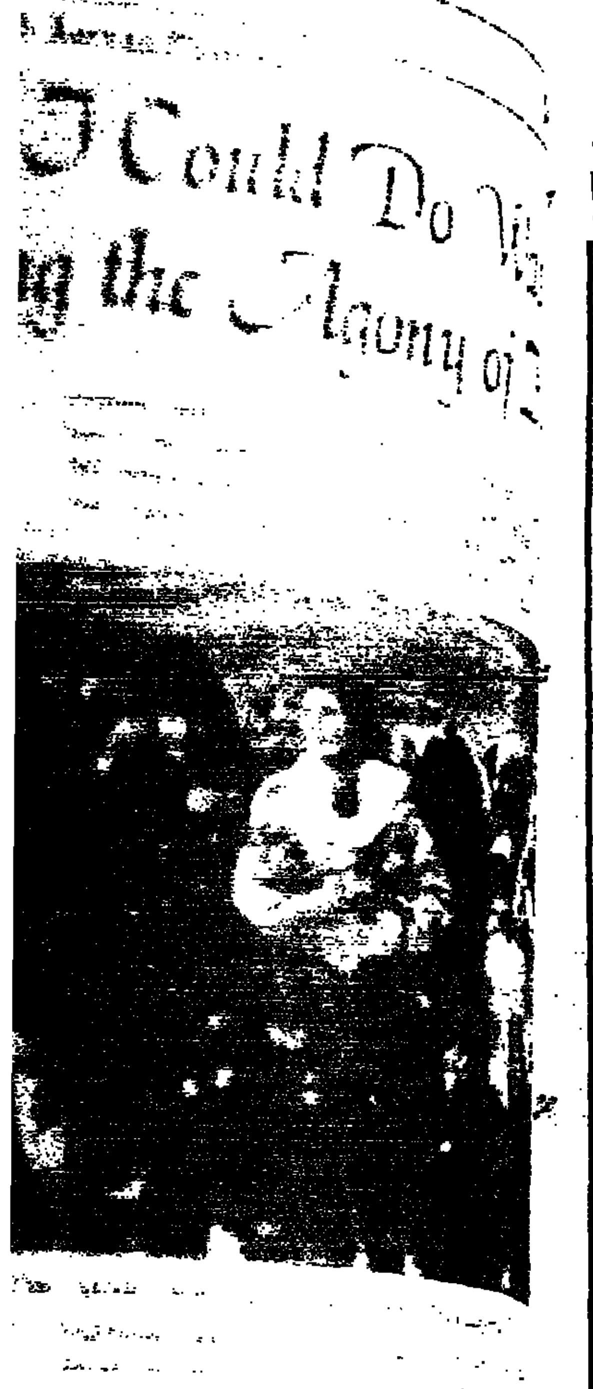
Born in Tehran in 1960, Ali Shah-Hatami started his artistic career in 1979 by writing and



SHAH-HATAMI

(Contd. on Pg. 15)





Euro 96 Soccer Outlook



Tehran Times Service

ALSAGER, England — Coach Arrigo Sacchi sprang a surprise in the Italian camp on Thursday by announcing five changes in his team to meet the Czech Republic at Anfield.

Out went the impressive striking partnership of Pierluigi Casiraghi and Gianfranco Zola, who played a major part in the 2-1 win over Russia, along with Juventus favourite Alessandro Del Piero.

****

NOTTINGHAM — Portugal's stylists confront Turkey's apostles of fair play in a European Championship Group D match on Friday that both teams need to win.

Portugal won plaudits for their highly entertaining display in Sunday's game with Denmark while Turkey were acclaimed for their fair play attitude despite being beaten by Croatia on Tuesday.

****

LIVERPOOL — The Czech Republic believe they have spotted a chink in Italy's impressive Euro 96 Armoury which could help them avoid early dismissal from the tournament on Friday.

Last weekend's 2-0 defeat by Germany has left the Czechs requiring victory over the Italians at Anfield to sustain any realistic hopes of progressing to the last eight from Group C.

****

BIRMINGHAM — England v Scotland was once the only international soccer fixture in the world, a match to produce fierce rivalry, passion, drama — and trouble.

For some people, mainly those north of Hadrian's wall, it remained the premier game for more than 117 years, arousing the most intense feelings, which was one of the reasons why the authorities stopped it in 1989.

****

GLASGOW — To an outsider it might look like just an exceptionally noisy soccer match, but to Scottish fans the game against England on Saturday is a long-awaited chance to put one over the 'auld enemy'.

The Scots, who see themselves as a distinct society within Britain, dislike having to cede ultimate control over their affairs to a government based in far-off London.

****

LEEDS — Soeren Andersen, who cancelled a planned holiday in Spain after a late call to Denmark's Euro 96 side, could lead the attack against Croatia on Sunday.

Coach Richard Moeller-Nielsen has hinted the 26-year-old Aalborg striker, his last choice in the 22-man squad, would be in the defending champions' side for their second Group D game in Sheffield.

****

LONDON — Britain on Thursday denied delaying the granting of visas to Russian fans wanting to come and support their team in the Euro 96 soccer tournament.

A foreign office spokesman said there was 'absolutely no justification' for continued press reports that the fans had been hindered in their efforts to get to England.

****

LONDON — A potentially volatile Balkan derby between Bulgaria and Romania and the equally vital clash between the Dutch and Swiss kicks off the second phase of Euro 96 group matches on Thursday.

Old friendships will be forgotten in Newcastle when Hristo Stoichkov and Gheorghe Hagi attempt to lead their countries in what amounts to be a battle for survival in Group B.

****

Turks Slam Fair Play Defender

ANKARA, (Reuter) — UEFA's fair play efforts were lost on Turkey's fanatical supporters who slammed defender Alpay Ozalan on Thursday for resisting the temptation to foul Croatia's Goran Vlaovic as he homed in to sink their team.

Newspapers said Ozalan, praised by UEFA for his gentlemanly conduct, should have had no qualms about using underhand methods to stop a long Vlaovic solo run which ended with the only goal of the Euro 96 Group D match in Nottingham on Tuesday.

"He could have hung on to his waist and prevented the goal," the Hurriyet daily said.

"It might have been a bit ugly but he could even have tripped him up from behind," the report added. "At least we would have won a point."

Normally congested streets in Turkish cities were deserted during televised coverage of the match, Turkey's first appearance in the finals of a major championship since the 1954 World Cup.

Observers saw Ozalan's restraint was a sign of Turkey's inexperience in the cynical world of top-flight soccer.

"Alpay preferred fair play, he didn't touch his opponent" the Sabah daily mourned. "No team made up of professionals would have lost a goal like that."

Sri Lanka Blanked Nepal 3-1



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Sri Lankan M.Rofan Terera (No.10) made a hat-trick in Nepal- Sri Lanka game here yesterday to beat the Nepalese side in the preliminary round of Group Five games of Asia Soccer Championship.

Terera opened the scoring in the 20th minute and added another in the 32nd. minute to give his side a 2-0 first half win.

The Nepalese side fought back to change the scoring in the second half and found the net in the 72 minute through Narenbra Fherfpha to make it 2-1.

The Sri Lankan Terera completed his hat-trick in the 80th minute to seal the first victory for his side.

Sri Lankan team was earlier beaten by Oman 3-0 and by Iran 7-0 on Monday and Wednesday respectively.

The second-leg matches are to *start later this week in Muscat*, Oman.

The 100,000-seat Azadi stadium was fully packed with partisan fans who earlier came to the stadium to watch Iran-Oman, the two other team of the group Five, who were to play after the first game.


Abbas Kowsari — Tehran Times

The Sri Lankan player, M.Rofan Terera (No.10 first-left) who scored a hat-trick against Nepalese team.

Spain Ready to Burst French Bubble

LEEDS, England, (AFP) — A confident Javier Clemente is conviced his Spanish team will burst the French bubble when the two sides meet here in their crucial Group B match on Saturday.

On paper, France's recent record makes impressive reading - winner of their last 10 matches, unbeaten in their last 24 and none has scored a goal against them in the last 536 minutes of play.

But Clemente is unimpressed.

"I am not worried about France. I know the way they play," said the Spainish coach on Friday.

"They only have one player that I would have in my side - Marcel Desailly. what power," enthused Clemente.

A win is vital to Spain after their Euro 96 opener against Bulgaria when they only managed a draw.

France are top of the group after beating Romania 1-0 but it was an unconvincing win.

Although Clemente is remaining tight-lipped about his team to play France he is expected to make wholesale changes to the side the drew with Bulgaria.

Likely to be axed are defender Alberto Belsue and midfielders Guillermo Amor and Julen Guerrero.

Spain will also be without tenerife striker Juan Antonio Pizzi, who has a one match suspension after being sent off against the Bulgarians.

Brazilian-born Donato of Deportivo la Coruna will probably replace Amor in the centre of midfield alongside Fernando Hierro, while Jorge Otero of Valencia steps in at right back for Belsue.

Alfonso Perez of real betis, who scored Spain's equaliser with his first touch seconds after coming on, will almost certainly replace Pizzi in attack.

Real Madrid's Jose Amavisca should replace Guerrero.

Luis Enrique will play further forward than against the Bulgarians as Spain look for the victory they need to ensure they qualify for the quarter-finals.

With Donato, Clemente is looking for more ball-winning strength against a talented French midfield, plus the veteran's ability to launch quick attacks and shoot from a distance.

Hierro, like the rest of the team, refuses to be overawed by the French, after watching them beat Romania.

Meanwhile French defender *Jocelyn Angloma looks set to* Remain on the bench, a fact that does not please the AC Milan player.

Goal That Might Have Been Ends Romania's Hopes

NEWCASTLE, (Reuter) — It was *an incident they will argue about* in the Balkans as long as the Germans have contested Geoff Hurst's winning goal for England in the *1966* World Cup final.

In the 31st minute of the European Championship Group B match against Bulgaria, Romanian midfielder Dorinel Munteanu blasted a 30-metre left-foot drive against the underside of the crossbar. The ball bounced down into the goal before being scrambled clear.

Munteanu and several of his team mates raised their arms in the air to claim the goal but Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen ignored their pleas.

Romania went on to lose 1-0, a result which robbed them of their chance of reaching the quarter-finals.

The goal bore a striking similarity to the hurst goal which gave England a 3-2 win over West Germany in 1966 — except for two things.

On that occasion the goal was given and there has always remained a doubt as to whether the ball crossed the line after Hurst's shot.

Television replays after the Bulgaria-Romania match showed clearly that the ball was well over the line, leaving the Romanians feeling bitter about their unjust elimination by their Balkan *neighbours*.

Romanian trainer Anghel Iordanescu was more circumspect, declining to be drawn on the controversy which is bound to resurrect calls for video evidence to be used during matches at major tournaments.

Cruyff, Bergkamp Set Up Netherlands for Last Eight

BIRMINGHAM, (Reuter) — Second half goals from Jordi Cruyff and Dennis Bergkamp gave the Netherlands a 2-0 victory over plucky Switzerland at Villa Park on Thursday, virtually guaranteeing them a place in the *last eight* of Euro 96.

The Dutch lead Group A with four points.

The Swiss had marginally the better of the first half but were unable to capitalise on their sharper play.

As the second half progressed, the Dutch gradually took control and deservedly went ahead after 66 minutes when Cruyff, son of the Netherlands' greatest player Johan, scored with a well-struck left-foot shot.

It was his first goal for the Netherlands in only his fifth appearance and fully justified his decision to play for his father's country rather than his homeland of Spain where he plays for Barcelona.

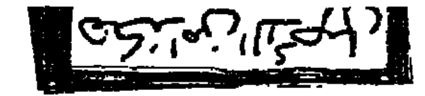
Thirteen minutes later Bergkamp sealed the victory when he shot home at the second attempt after goalkeeper Marco Pascolo blocked his first shot.

Dutch goalkeeper Edwin Van Der Sar made the goal with a huge clearance upfield.

ATTENTION

Dear Readers!

In order to give a good coverage to the Euro Soccer 96, the Tehran Times will publish two sports pages every day till the competitions end.



DHAKA, Bangladesh (June 12): Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia casts her vote in Bangladesh's crucial parliamentary elections, saying she was optimistic her party would win the polls because she had the people's mandate.

(AFP PHOTO)

UN Inspectors Maintain Vigil as Iraq Softens Stand

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq softened its stance Friday in its four-day standoff with UN weapons inspectors, as the Security Council was preparing to consider resolutions that would allow the use of military force.

"Iraq is more anxious than anyone to comply with UN resolutions to reinforce cooperation with this organization in order to obtain a lifting of the economic embargo," said *Ath-Thawra* newspaper of the ruling Baath Party.

The statement was seen by observers in Baghdad as the first sign that Iraq was searching for a solution to the mounting crisis, as UN inspectors maintained their vigil around suspected Iraqi weapons sites.

The Security Council was set Friday to discuss proposals for sending a tough message to Baghdad that would lay the groundwork for a possible military intervention if it did not allow the inspectors access to the sites.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said his government "wanted to completely cooperate in all openness with the Security Council," which demanded free access in a resolution passed on Wednesday.

Aziz, quoted by the official Iraqi news agency INA, said he had invited council members to come inspect the sites in Iraq, adding that his country had nothing to hide.

"We ask the international community to adopt an objective position and stand firm against American and British efforts to create a crisis and turn opinion away from the truth," Aziz said.

Since Tuesday, Iraq has denied the 50-member inspection team, which is searching for banned weapons programs, access to three military sites linked to the Republican Guard, citing national security reasons.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN.....

Hamid Estili headed home Iran's second goal in the 86th minute to seal Iran's victory and give his side the third consecutive victory.

Iran humbled Nepal 8-0 on Monday and trounced Sri Lanka 7-0 on Wednesday earlier.

Iran is now the winner of first-leg Group Five of preliminary matches of Asia Soccer Championship while the Omanese side became runner up of the group. Sri Lankans who defeated Nepal before Iran-Oman team got the third position.

The second-leg of Group Five preliminary matches of Asia Soccer Championship is to start this week on Monday in Muscat, Oman to decide the winner of the group.

Some 100 thousands enthusiastic fans packed the Azadi stadium yesterday and watched Nepal-Sri Lanka and Iran-Oman games.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

PRESIDENT....

He extolled Iran's recent advancements and said, "the inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroad, completed in a short span of time and with low cost, greatly impressed me".

The Turkish president expressed satisfaction with the railroad linking the West and East of the world and thanked President Rafsanjani for his hospitality, reiterating previous invitation to Rafsanjani to visit Turkey.

Azerbaijan Protests Over U.S. Aid Bar

BAKU (Reuter) — Azerbaijan's President Haydar Aliyev called in the U.S. ambassador on Thursday to protest at a congressional bar on American aid to Baku, Azeri officials said.

Aliyev said Washington's relations with the former Soviet republic, where U.S. firms are involved in developing Caspian Sea oilfields, would be seriously damaged if Congress approved a plan to link an easing of the ban with separate aid treatment for the ethnic Armenian enclave of Karabakh.

Between 1988 and 1994 more than 10,000 people were killed in fighting over the enclave. Ethnic Armenians have driven out virtually all the Azeri population and want independence from Azerbaijan so they can unite with Christian Armenia.

Azerbaijan says it is prepared to grant them autonomy but will not give up its sovereignty. It believes that separate aid conditions for Karabakh would be a threat to its territorial integrity.

ADVERTISE IN TEHRAN TIMES

Arab League: Arab Summit Not Seeking Confrontation With Israel

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League head Esmat Abdel Meguid said Thursday Arab nations are not seeking a confrontation with Israel by holding their first summit in six years later this month.

"The Arabs are not looking for a confrontation or an escalation with Israel, but they are concerned with establishing a just and durable peace," Abdel Meguid told journalists after a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa.

"Israel is required to respect its agreements with the Palestinians, to apply Security Council resolutions calling for an Israeli retreat from all occupied Arab lands and to take no measure compromising the peace process," he said.

He said the Arab summit, to be held in Cairo June 21-23 and attended by all Arab countries except Iraq, will produce an "Arab position of prime importance on the peace process".

Contacts are underway to lay out the agenda of the summit which is to be adopted by Arab foreign ministers at a preliminary meeting held on June 20, he said.

Egypt has not ruled out that the summit could lead to a reconciliation between Damascus and Amman in the form of a bilateral meeting between Syria's President Hafez al-Assad and Jordan's King Hussein.

"We do not believe that differences between Jordan and Syria are that insurmountable, it will not be a problem," said Ussama al-Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's chief political advisor, on Wednesday.

Russia Agrees to Post NATO Officer in Russian General Staff

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Russia agreed Friday to allow the posting of a top NATO officer with its general staff in Moscow as part of a reciprocal effort to create deeper and broader ties with the Atlantic alliance, a U.S. senior official said.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, in a meeting here with NATO's 16 defense ministers, reaffirmed Russia's opposition to NATO enlargement but made clear Moscow was prepared to go forward with cooperation, the official said.

Russia is ready for "deeper and closer" contacts with the North Atlantic alliance, Grachev said in a brief statement after the meeting at NATO headquarters.

"From the speeches of the NATO secretary general and all the ministers of defense, I have come to the conclusion that there is the aspiration for deeper and closer contacts," Grachev said. "Russia is ready for that."

"In my speech I suggested a number of proposals of how to make our cooperation deeper and broader," he said without detailing them.

Grachev accepted a NATO proposal Thursday to make permanent the presence of a Russian liaison mission in the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), and suggested that Russian liaison officers be placed in other NATO commands in Europe, NATO and U.S. officials said.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry countered by proposing that the Russians reciprocate by accepting a NATO liaison officer at its general staff in Moscow, a NATO official said.

"Minister Grachev agreed to host and welcome a NATO officer in Russia," said Ashton Carter, assistant secretary of Defense for International Security Policy.

He said the exchange was "not a proposal but an agreed concept."

The details of who would go where and when would be worked out by NATO supreme commander U.S. General George Joulwan and the Russians in the coming days, he said.

Despite proposing to institutionalize Russia's military relationship with NATO, Grachev held to a hard line on NATO's plans to admit new members from among the former east bloc countries now in the partnership for peace.

Zyuganov: Restoration of Soviet Union "Inevitable"

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, the main challenger to President Boris Yeltsin in Sunday's elections, said Thursday restoration of the Soviet Union in its old form was "inevitable."

Zyuganov did not explain how he would rebuild the USSR if elected, although he has previously advocated voluntary recreation of the Soviet empire, which collapsed in 1991.

"Restoration of the USSR in its old form is inevitable. If Russia, Belarus and Ukraine fail to tighten their economic links they will lose their own independence," Zyuganov told a news conference here.

"We will not try to undermine the unique cultural identity" of the former Soviet republics, he added.

The latest opinion poll conducted by the all-Russian public opinion research center among 1,600 people gave Yeltsin 36 percent of the votes and Zyuganov 24 percent in the first round of voting set for June 16.

Yeltsin is widely expected to face Zyuganov in a decisive second round runoff in July.

Zyuganov rejected the pollsters' forecasts, predicting that he would win "because two-thirds of the population support the popular and patriotic forces."

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TURKISH....

"Operations are set up on Iraqi territory when we detect a gathering of 100 to 150" Kurdish rebels, the source indicated. "These operations have become routine".

Questioned about the extent of the operation, the source said it was "limited" and not as big as the assault led in March-April 1995 against the PKK in Iraq, with 30,000 to 35,000 troops.

"If necessary, we can send troops. But we do not need to carry out operations (in northern Iraq) as extensive as last year's," the source said.

On Friday the Turkish daily newspaper *Hurriyet* reported that 5,000 Turkish soldiers had crossed over into Iraq this week to hunt PKK rebels.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TAJIK....

He said Russian aircraft were being used to deliver humanitarian supplies to remote areas including settlements in the Pamir mountains.

The Islamic activists fighting against government forces in the Central Asian republic charged that Russian warplanes carried out a devastating raid on Tavil-Dara Tuesday.

The accusation came in an open letter to the United Nations released Wednesday.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ANTI....

least $40 million in a single year to significantly advance the petroleum industries of Iran or Libya. The president would have to choose two from a list of six sanctions in the case of Iran, and may impose one in the case of Libya.

The menu of sanctions includes a ban on aid by the government's export-import bank, curbs on U.S. exports and a ban on dealing in U.S. government funds and on doing business with the U.S. government.

Imposition of at least two sanctions from the list would be mandatory against persons violating United Nations embargoes against Libya or contributing to its ability to buy weapons of mass destruction or to its military or aviation capabilities.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ROCKET....

government led by President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The militia, which has gained control of most of Afghanistan after emerging in November 1994, has vowed to enforce Islamic law throughout the country.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

NEW....

tions declared free and fair by foreign observers.

Although the results from 29 constituencies have yet to be determined, Wajed met with her advisors and others to discuss forming a government later this month, party officials said.

With the results declared from 271 of the 300 parliamentary constituencies, the Awami League has won 133 seats to emerge as the largest single party and and needs 18 more for an absolute majority.

Twenty-nine constituencies have yet to be decided. Re-polling will be held in 27 of them on June 19 following irregularities in Wednesday's general elections, while the results in the two other constituencies were held up on legal grounds.

Foreign observers from the U.S.-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Japan Friday said Bangladesh's general elections had been free and fair, and called on all parties to accept the results.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League took a commanding lead, garnering 133 seats in Wednesday's parliamentary elections, and is expected to form the next government.

The 30-member NDI team, headed by former Australian Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock and former U.S. congressman Stephen Solarz, endorsed the election results but criticized incidents of intimidation of minority Hindu voters in some areas.

"This was unambigously an honest, free and fair election," Solarz said, calling on political parties to "accept their status as members of the opposition with grace and dignity" and for the winners to be "magnanimous and reconciliatory."

"Our overall impression is that these elections have been a magnificent demonstration of democracy in action and have established a basis for Bangladesh to emerge from the political crisis that has recently beset the country."

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 33°C Min. temp. 24°C

Clear to partly cloudy with wind

Warmest Points:

Ahwaz & Abadan 45°C

Coldest Point:

Ardebil 4°C

Some cities of the world

City	Max. C	City	Max. C
Jedda	36	Vienna	19
Riyadh	42	Moscow	20
Istanbul	–	Madrid	32
Rome	31	Abu Dhabi	38
Athens	–	Karachi	–
London	20	New Delhi	36
Paris	22	Kuwait	44
Frankfurt	17		

Search for Western Hostages Ends Without Clues

MAGAMRAKH, India (AFP) – A search for four abducted Westerners in the troubled Indian state of Kashmir ended Thursday without any clue whether they were alive or dead, officials said.

Indian troops, aided by detectives from Britain, Germany and the United States launched the search earlier this month for the hostages in the vicinity of the remote village of Magamrakh, about 70 kilometers (50 miles) from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

The search followed a reported confession by an arrested guerrilla group that the tourists, who were abducted by Al-Faran group separately in Kashmir, had been killed in Magarmakh village on December 19.

"Nothing could be dug out," a senior official of the state government told AFP. "The longest trek of some 25 kilometers (15 miles) was concluded today and we did not find anything."

A total of six Westerners were seized by Al-Faran last year. One American managed to escape, while a young Norwegian, Hans-Christian Ostro, was killed by the abductors in August.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings and Dirk Hasert of Germany were abducted by separatist guerrillas between July 4 and July 8 while on trekking vacations in the nearby resort of Pahalgam.

"We could not get any clue from the locals of the area who show complete ignorance on the hostage crisis," a security official who was involved in the search said.

Diplomatic sources said the six foreign detectives were returning to their base camp in Srinagar after their last leg of searches in the pine forests of Magarmakh.

Thousands of Students Clash With Police in Chile

SANTIAGO (AFP) – Students and police clashed Wednesday near the presidential palace in the center of the Chilean capital, witnesses said.

Thousands of students marched through downtown Santiago near the La Moneda presidential palace, where they threw rocks and homemade firebombs at the paramilitary Carabinero police protecting the palace.

Police responded by firing water cannon at them and throwing tear gas canisters.

Police made arrests but it was unknown how many.

The protest had been called by student federations from 19 state-run universities.

The students marched past the offices of a coal miners union that has been on strike for three weeks. About 500 miners also held a rally on Wednesday.

Fire Destroys Black Church in Oklahoma

ENID, Oklahoma (Reuter) — In yet another apparent race-related attack, a black church in northern Oklahoma was destroyed on Thursday by an intense fire that police believe was set deliberately.

The first missionary baptist church in the small town of Enid about 80 miles (120 km) northwest of Oklahoma City was wrecked. Police and fire chiefs said they suspected arson.

It was the 33rd blaze to hit black churches across the south in the last 18 months, and President Bill Clinton pledged on thursday to stop the arsonists.

"We're going to get to the bottom of every one of these cases and we're going to do everything we can," Clinton told a news conference in Washington. He also said he is considering "other possible options" for federal action against those who torch black churches, and might announce specifics soon.

The fires have raised fears that a wave of racially motivated violence may be under way, and led Clinton to visit the site of a burned black church in south Carolina on Wednesday. But many black community leaders believe federal investigative efforts have been inadequate.

Thursday's blaze began about 4 a.m. (0900 GMT) and spread rapidly with huge flames swirling 40 feet (13 meters) up through the roof when firefighters arrived minutes later.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the treasury's bureau of alcohol, tobacco and firearms picked through the rubble of the gutted church on thursday afternoon to search for clues.

Enid police chief Jim Hood said accelerant was found at the scene and a window had been smashed from the outside, indicating that someone may have broken into the church. He said arson had not yet been confirmed but was suspected.

Nobody was injured, but the church's roof collapsed and only the fractured brick shell was left standing.

"Most everybody is stunned and shocked. I'm sure there'll be some anger a little later but right now everyone is just shaken," fire department spokesman Carl Carroll said.

Officials from the federal government and nine southern states met at FBI headquarters in Washington on Thursday to coordinate the pursuit of those responsible for the burnings.

Apart from the 33 church fires in southern states, investigators are also probing three other cases in New York, New Jersey and Washington state.

In Oklahoma, members of the first missionary baptist church's 200-strong congregation stood looking in disbelief at the building's burned shell throughout Thursday.

"If this fire was set deliberately, then it's the work of a sick person," the Rev. Alfred Baldwin told reporters. He said most of his congregation is black but there are also some native American and Hispanic members.

Japanese Cult Probed for Possible Role in Moscow Metro Bombing

MOSCOW (AP) – Police are investigating the possibility that this week's metro bombing could have been staged by Russian supporters of the Doomsday Cult accused in last year's Tokyo subway attack, a report said Thursday.

The ITAR-TASS news agency said involvement by the Aum Shinri Kyo Cult is just one scenario being looked into by the investigators.

President Boris Yeltsin and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov have suggested that election sabotage was behind the Tuesday night bombing that killed four people and injured 12 on a subway train in southern Moscow.

But an investigating team of police, criminology experts of the prosecutor general's office and the federal security service is examining numerous theories, including the possible involvement of Chechens, which the separatists have denied.

No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Five members of Aum, as the Japanese cult is known, are charged in the 1995 subway nerve gas attack that killed 12 people and injured more than 5,500 in Tokyo.

Aum had 30,000 adherents in Russia, including six branches in Moscow, last year when a judge closed down its Russian operations for corrupting young devotees and ordered it to pay $4 million in damages.

Flood Hits Pennsylvania, More Rain Expected

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Two people have drowned in separate incidents after heavy rains flooded suburban towns outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, state and local authorities said Thursday.

Bucks County was hit with 22.5 centimeters (nine inches) of rain in three hours late Wednesday, leaving about 100,000 people without power overnight, said State Emergency Management Agency spokesman John Comey.

"It was the heaviest rain we've ever gotten," a firefighter in Bristol told AFP in a telephone interview.

John Murray, 53, drowned when he apparently fell into a large pool of water on a roadway where his car had stalled, said detective Charles Schaffner of Falls township police.

Japan Enacts Mutual Supply Pact With U.S.

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Parliament on Friday approved a pact with the United States to supply military goods and services, a move believed to boost security corporation between the two countries.

The aquisition and cross-servicing agreement covers 15 items Japan would offer the U.S. military in peacetime joint exercises. They include food, water, fuel, clothing, spare parts and components, transportation, and repair and maintenance.

The accord, which was signed in April, will formally take effect in October, Japanese officials said.

The United States has signed similar agreements with 19 other countries and two organisations, but most of these cover mutual supply of goods and services in the event of emergencies as well.

Kyodo news said Tokyo and Washington were likely to look into the possibility of creating a crisis version of the accord as they work on the planned review their bilateral defense guidelines set down in 1978.

Polling Stations Open in Chechnya Despite Separatist Threats

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Polling stations for the Russian elections opened in Chechnya Friday, despite threats from separatists who say the poll violates a fragile four-day-old peace accord.

Many Chechnyans are refusing to take part in the elections, and voters were arriving in trickles at polling states in the capital Grozny to cast their ballots for a new local Parliament and to choose a Russian president.

"Since 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) this morning, more than 90 people have already voted," said Louisa Chabazova, electoral committee member for a polling station close to the pro-Russian government building, guarded by three Russian tanks.

"I'm not frightened of the separatist threats," she said. "There aren't so many of them, they can do little things, but nothing on a large scale."

In another station, electoral committee member Zoulai Makaeva said about 100 people had voted, but at the entrance, a Chechnyan militiaman said "no more than 10 people have voted until now."

Chechen leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev and his chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov have warned they would use all means to prevent the elections.

They claim Doku Zavgayev's Russian-installed government is violating one of the main points of the accord signed Monday aimed at ending the 18-month old war by insisting on the three-day local elections.

In the agreement, both sides agreed to postpone elections until after a Russian troop withdrawal and a Chechen military disarmament in order to create conditions for free voting.

In several villages near Grozny where separatist sympathies are strong, residents have refused to install polling stations.

Threat Leads to Building Evacuation During Yeltsin's Visit

YEKATERINBURG, Russia (AP) – The regional government building in this Ural mountains city was evacuated because of a bomb threat Friday, the day President Boris Yeltsin began a campaign visit to the city.

The incident, reported by the Interfax news agency, highlighted increased tensions in the runup to Sunday's presidential elections. Security has been tightened around the country, particularly in the aftermath of a subway bombing that killed three people in Moscow on Tuesday.

The report Friday said workers of the Yekaterinburg regional administration were evacuated after a telephone threat that the building was mined. Law-enforcement officials went to the scene.

Yeltsin was to speak at a rally later in the day across town, and the report said the evacuated workers were advised to head there instead.

Before Yeltsin's arrival earlier in the day, subway workers foiled an attempt by a man using a gas canister and rags to set ablaze carriages in a depot belonging to the transportation system.

(Contd from Pg. 4)

A FILM...

staging plays. In 1981 he started his cinematic activities as actor and assistant director. Shah-Hatami directed his first short film, *The Pit*, in 1989. His first feature-length film was entitled *Chasing the Shadows*. Shah-Hatami's subsequent films are *The Iron Bird* (1991), and *The Last Reconnaissance* (1994).

Synopsis:

The demolition forces open up two passages in the enemy's mine field, but both passages are obstructed in the wake of an accident. Seyyed and Hossein resume work in the mine field and this time another accident leads them into the enemy's bunkers. This is a path of no return. At the same time the commander of the Islamic forces is worried about the possibility of using the two passages in the mine field.

(35mm., Color, 95 minutes)

Courtesy Forabi Cinema Foundation Publications

Opinion Poll Shows Zyuganov Overtaking Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has slipped behind his communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov just two days before the first round of voting in Russia's presidential elections, a polling institute said Friday.

The Betaneli Sociological Institute said its latest poll of 6,000 people showed Yeltsin slipping back seven points while Zyuganov had made gains of almost five percent, overhauling his rival.

Two other recent polls gave Yeltsin a clear lead over Zyuganov however.

The Betaneli poll, conducted in 250 towns and villages across Russia, gave Yeltsin 32.7 percent of voting intentions for Sunday's first round as against 40 percent in the institute's last poll three weeks ago.

Zyuganov scored 35.6 percent in the latest poll, up from 31 percent three weeks ago.

Nugzar Betaneli, the institute's director, told AFP the results could indicate voter disaffection with Yeltsin as a result of unfulfilled promises on the payment of salary arrears.

Advertise in Tehran Times

(Contd from Pg. 4)

POET...

Today they shout prohibition at you
"Thou shalt not this"
"Thou shalt not that"
"Reserved for whites only"
You laugh.

One thing they cannot prohibit—
The strong men . . . coming on
The strong men gittin' stronger.
Strong men . . .
Stronger . . .



TEHRAN TIMES

International news

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$300,000 for a Page of Washington Manuscript

LONDON (AFP) – A vital missing leaf from one of the most prophetic and elusive manuscripts in U.S. history – which was discovered by a gardener under a sofa in an English townhouse – was sold here Thursday for almost 200,000 pounds ($300,000).

Book experts at Phillips, the London auctioneers who handled the sale, are satisfied that the single piece of paper was handwritten by George Washington and contains the most important section of the visionary speech he intended to make at his inauguration as the first president of the United States.

China's "Prince of Evil" Arrested

SHANGHAI (AFP) – Police in China's Central Henan Province have arrested a robber who allegedly killed 17 people and has been on the run for the past nine years, a newspaper reported.

The Wenhui Bao daily reported that police seized the "prince of evil" Han Zhenying May 22 when he was trying to rob a taxi driver.

Han, 23, from Central Henan Province, allegedly robbed and stole more than 600,000 yuan ($72,300) in cash in a reign of terror since 1987.

Adams: Sinn Fein Ready to Take Risks for Peace

DUBLIN (AFP) – Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said Thursday his party's desire for peace was being "thrown back in our face" through its exclusion from the Ulster talks, but added that it was ready to "take risks" for peace.

"We are prepared for the risks and the difficult decisions which must be taken," the leader of the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) told a rally here.

Adams did not make it clear that the "risks" would include a move from his party to persuade the IRA to renew the cease-fire it ended in February with a London bomb that left two dead.

Restoration of this cease-fire would satisfy the Anglo-Irish condition for allowing Sinn Fein into the Belfast talks on the future of Northern Ireland that began this week.



Adams told the rally he was "convinced that there will be a peace settlement.

"This will grow from a process of honest dialogue and real negotiations. Sinn Fein will be part of that effort," he added.

The Sinn Fein leader welcomed the confirmation Wednesday – after two days of bitter wrangling – of former U.S. Senator George Mitchell as chairman of the talks.

He said this represented the "international dimension" that his party had long called for to resolve the conflict in the province.

But he warned that "we must remain vigilant against any effort to erode or dilute...the terms of reference and authority of the chairperson of the talks process."

Negligence Blamed for Deadly Brazilian Mall Blast

SAO PAULO (Reuter) — Investigators on Thursday blamed what they said was the improper installation of liquid petroleum gas lines for the explosion this week that ripped through a Brazilian shopping mall, killing at least 37 people.

Specialists examining the blast site at the Osasco shopping plaza outside Sao Paulo said gas lines were improperly placed under the floor of the food court, which was packed with lunchtime shoppers at the time of Tuesday's blast.

Investigators said they had found a connection for a gas pipe network that was probably broken before the explosion and was likely to have caused the leak.

"The connection should have been installed better," investigator Celso Rodrigues Maimone told reporters.



HYDERABAD, Pakistan (June 12): Rescue workers go through the rubbles of the collapsed building to find out bodies in Hyderabad, some 160 km from Karachi. At least 22 people were killed and 40 injured when a three-story building collapsed in the early hours.

(AFP PHOTO)

President Absolved of Accepting Drug Money

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA (AP) – After months of scandal and political paralysis, Congress has cleared President Ernesto Samper of charges he accepted drug money to win office - a decision certain to infuriate business leaders, the United States and other critics.

A House of Representatives dominated by loyalists from Samper's Liberal Party voted 111-43 late Wednesday that there was "no legal merit" in the charges against the president.

Voting largely along party lines, they found Samper innocent of illicit enrichment, falsifying documents, electoral fraud and cover-up.

Indignant Samper opponents hardened their rhetoric Thursday, calling those who voted to absolve the president "mafiosi."

"The resistance will continue. Samper cannot continue and must go," said Hernan Echevarria, leader of the opposition Movement for National Reconstruction.

Opponents said last week they would launch strikes, lockouts and other forms of protest starting Thursday if he were not impeached.

Thatcher Twists the Knife in Tory Euro Wounds

LONDON (AFP) -- Former British Premier Margaret Thatcher on Thursday twisted the knife in the ruling Conservative Party's gaping wounds by saying she would make a donation to a Euroskeptic fund set up by a Conservative member of Parliament renowned for his anti-Europe line.

The move – on a day when Britain came under renewed attack from its EU partners over the latest twist in the "mad cow" disease affair – was seen as an almighty rebuff to Prime Minister John Major at a time when he is determined to crack down hard on rebels on the Tory back-benches.

Major delivered a withering response to Thatcher after she said in a statement she would contribute to the European Foundation of Bill Cash, who earlier this week proposed a bill to Parliament urging a nationwide referendum on Britain's future in the Europe Union.

One in four Tory MPs voted in favor of the bill, which had no chance of becoming law but which served to embarrass Major.

"Everyone must choose what to do with their own money," he said after his predecessor's statement. "Lady Thatcher must answer for her own actions. Personally, I would have given the money to the Conservative Party."

The former prime minister remains a talismanic figure for many on the Tory right and her public endorsement of cash will once again send a powerful signal of encouragement to the party's vocal Euroskeptic wing.

3 Die, 108 Injured in Japan Plane Crash

TOKYO (AFP) — A Garuda Indonesian Airways DC-10 carrying 275 people overshot the runway and caught fire on takeoff at Fukuoka Airport, southern Japan, killing three and injuring 108, officials said.

A witness saw one of the plane's three engines catch fire immediately after takeoff while the pilot reported nothing abnormal before the DC-10 flew off the runway at noon (0300 GMT) on a flight to Jakarta via the resort island of Bali.

"The airplane soared three to four meters (nine to 12 feet) and I saw a fire in the engine on the right wing," Toshimitsu Yamawaki, a maritime safety agency official working at the airport, told Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK).

"The airplane continued flying for about two to three seconds and then fell," Yamawaki said.

Donald Longdong, the 38-year-old pilot, was quoted by Garuda officials as saying, "there was no problem at all before takeoff."

Police said the bodies of three male Japanese passengers aged 68, 44 and 39 were pulled from the burnt-out wreckage of the plane lying on its belly in a field some 500 meters beyond the runway.

There had been a near-capacity 260 passengers and a 15-member Indonesian crew aboard the plane.

All but four on the passenger list were Japanese. Two passengers were Indonesian and there were two ethnic Koreans living in Japan, according to a spokesman for Japan Airlines (JAL), which handles Garuda passengers at the airport.

Row Over Sacking Could Undermine India's New Government

NEW DELHI (AFP) – A senior official in Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's party Friday warned the expulsion of a top party leader could undermine his new coalition government.

"The immediate consequences are negligible but the long-term implications can be very, very serious," a senior official with the Janata Dal, People's Party) said, referring to Thursday's sacking of Ramkrishna Hegde.

"It was inevitable, because their interests were clashing too much," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Hegde wants to strike back but maybe he can't do it now. But what he may do in the future and the implications this might have can be fatal."

Hegde, 70, a former chief minister of the southern state of Karnataka — the same office Deve Gowda held before forming a government on June 1 — was widely tipped for the premiership after the April-May polls resulted in a hung Parliament.

Janata Dal President Laloo Prasad Yadav expelled Hegde from the party for six years, saying he was "carrying on (anti-party) activities in spite of advice by elder leaders," in a terse five-page statement on Thursday.

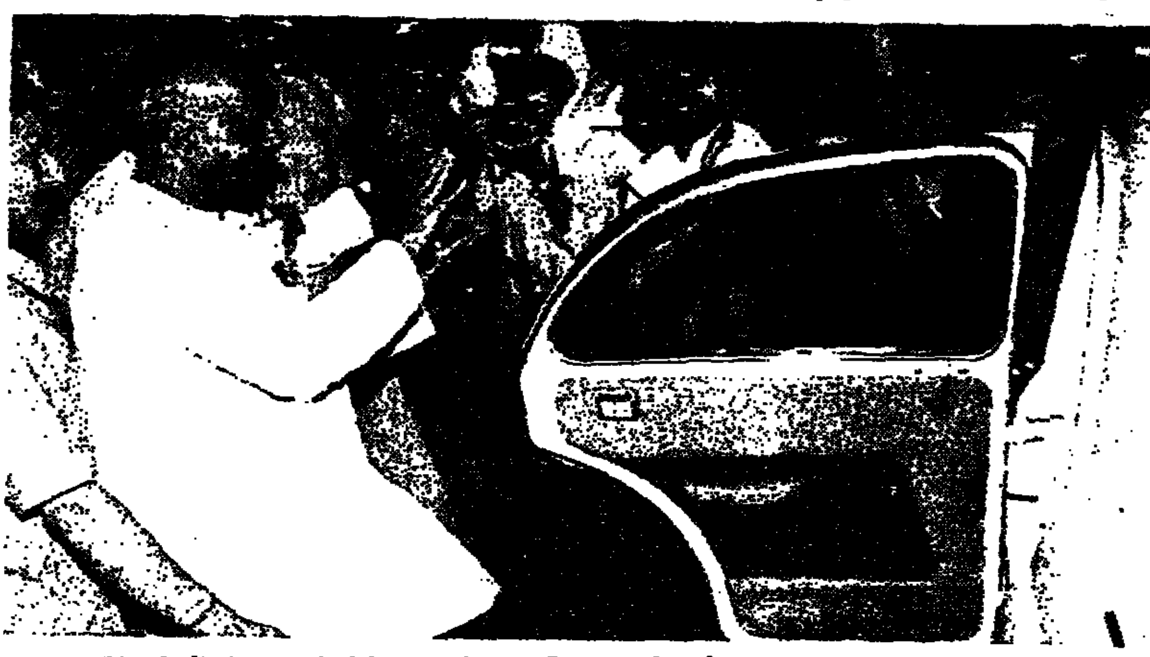
50 Workers Feared Killed in Kashmir Snowstorm

JAMMU, India (AFP) – About 50 migrant laborers from Nepal and the eastern Indian state of Bihar were feared killed after they were trapped in a snowstorm in the Himalayan state of Kashmir, police said here Friday.

They quoted a report as saying that the workers were caught in the blizzard last week on the 11,500-foot (3,450-meter) high Zojila pass en route to the northern Kashmir region of Ladakh where they were going to seek work.

They said the workers had to disembark from a bus in the town of Sonamarg, 88 kilometers (55 miles) miles north of the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar, and were trekking to Leh, Ladakh's main city, because the highway was closed to traffic.

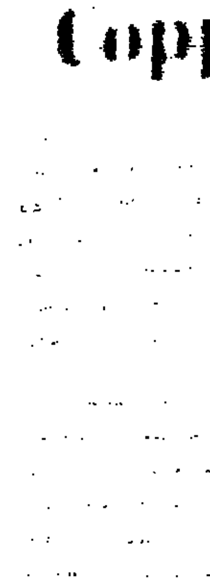
Police said four bodies had been recovered. Air force helicopters were making sorties and bulldozers deployed in the area to help in rescue operations.



NEW DELHI, India (June 12): Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda (L) is greeted by press photographers after his new center-left United Front coalition government won a morale-boosting vote of confidence in Parliament, in New Delhi. Gowda was sworn in on June 1 as India's 11th prime minister and head of a minority government. The vote ends almost two months of political uncertainty in the country.

(AFP PHOTO)







PARIS - Singapore is looking to diversify its trading partnerships by developing more business with Europe, thus easing its dependence on the United States, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew said Thursday.

WASHINGTON - U.S. legislators are unlikely to approve an ambassador to Vietnam or expand economic ties before U.S. elections in November, a leader of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hanoi said Thursday.

BUDAPEST - The foundations of a new 20-million-dollar Hungarian factory of Japan's Sony Corporation were laid in the Central Godollo Wednesday, the *Vilaggazdasag* economic daily reported Thursday.

WASHINGTON - Eastman Kodak on Thursday hailed a ruling by U.S. authorities that the Japanese government had thwarted foreign access to Japan's consumer photography market.

ISTANBUL - Cuban President Fidel Castro, making a surprise appearance at the UN Cities Summit in Istanbul, warned Thursday of a widening gap between rich and poor.

AMMAN - Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as part of steps to normalize relations, decided Thursday to boost industrial links and draw up a list of products to be exempted from customs duties.

BRUSSELS - The European Commission has approved a new tranche of aid of 102 million ecus ($122 million) to finance emergency operations in the former Yugoslavia, a spokesman said Thursday.

WASHINGTON - The International Monetary Fund approved on Wednesday a new three-year loan for Niger equivalent to about $83 million.

WASHINGTON - The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund made progress on a global debt initiative for the very poorest countries, IMF sources said.

SINGAPORE - Indian entrepreneurs from around the globe are to gather here next week for a conference that will provide the new coalition government of India with a platform to spell out its economic agenda.

MANILA - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 50 million-dollar soft loan to Kyrgyzstan to rehabilitate its Bishkek-Osh road, the Philippines-based bank said Friday.

DUBLIN - At least eight European Union countries should be ready for European Monetary Union in 1999, the finance minister of Ireland, which takes over the revolving EU presidency in July, said Thursday.

CALGARY - President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico sought financial advice from the prime minister of the western province of Alberta, Ralph Klein, Thursday in a 45-minute meeting between the two leaders.

BEIJING - The largest auto show ever organized in China will open its doors here next week with 1,000 exhibitors from 25 countries, the *China Daily* said Friday.

TOKYO - Japan's Economic Planning Agency (EPA) left its monthly assessment of the economy unchanged Friday.

11 Asian Nations Open Talks on Developing Mekong

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Top officials from 11 Asian nations began talks here Friday to outline a strategy to jointly develop the resource-rich basin of the Mekong River.

Officials said a Malaysian proposal for a Mekong fund would top the agenda of the discussions among the senior officials that will lay the groundwork for a two-day ministerial meeting from Monday.

"The meeting will address the question of setting up a Mekong fund, the framework for cooperation and criteria in identifying projects in the Mekong basin," said Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, secretary-general of Malaysia's Foreign Ministry.

Officials from the six nations on the Mekong basin are being joined by their other counterparts in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The river basin covers Burma, Cambodia, southwest China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

Aside from Thailand and Vietnam, the other members of ASEAN are Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Malaysia and Singapore have been strong proponents of the Mekong economic hexagon, the development of which will help Burma, Cambodia and Laos catch up with their more prosperous neighbors in ASEAN.

ASEAN leaders had pledged to develop the Mekong region during the ASEAN leaders summit in Bangkok in December last year.

Some analysts see the Mekong basin development program as an attempt by Malaysia to launch the controversial East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) in a form less likely to attract protest from the United States.

The EAEC, mooted by Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad in December 1990, is meant to be a loose consultative forum with China, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea and ASEAN as its core members.



MOSCOW - Russian presidential elections.

PLYMOUTH, England - Single-handed transatlantic yacht race starts in Plymouth. Finishes in Newport, Rhode Island.



LONDON, United Kingdom: President of American Airlines, Bob Carty (L) and Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways shake hands as it was announced that the two airlines had agreed to form a worldwide commercial allinance. From April 1997 the two airlines plan to coordinate their passenger and cargo activities between Europe and the USA.

(AFP PHOTO)

Sumitomo Won't Withdraw From Copper Market

TOKYO (AFP) — Sumitomo Corp. president Tomiichi Akiyama said Friday the company had "no intention" of selling outstanding contracts or withdrawing from the international copper market after suffering $1.8 billion in losses.

"My mind is currently absorbed with how to minimize the losses," he told a news conference in Tokyo. "The losses are huge but given the company's financial strength, they are small enough to absorb."

Akiyama said there were "no questions about Sumitomo's management" as the losses were linked to a single employee, former head of Copper Trading Yasuo Hamanaka. "The company was not involved in this case," he said.

"We have pledged 100 percent cooperation for the stability of the markets," the Sumitomo president said. "We have no intention of selling outstanding contracts or withdrawing from the market."

Akiyama was at pains to stress that Sumitomo acted quickly after discovering the unauthorized deals by Hamanaka — apparently keen to avoid the sort of criticism which followed last year's delayed disclosure of a similar incident at Daiwa Bank Ltd. in New York involving $1.1 billion in bond trading losses.

"I think we were able to announce this case in a very short time after its discovery," the president said. "We reported this case to the U.S. authorities immediately after it was discovered in June 5."

Akiyama added that "we reported this case to the international trade and industry this week", apparently contradicting remarks made earlier by International Trade and Industry Minister Shunpei Tsukahara.

The minister told a separate news conference Friday that "we have not received details of the case", with Kyodo news describing Tsukahara as being "stunned" by the Sumitomo announcement.

Akiyama defended the decision by the Osaka-based trading company to release its statement in New York late Thursday night even though offices were already opening in Japan Friday morning.

"Trading is mainly in the United States and this is primarily a U.S. matter. In order to secure the market's stability, the announcement was made in the United States first," he said.

Akiyama held the hastily-arranged news conference at a building where Japanese reporters covering the trading house industry work. Across town at the company's Tokyo headquarters, one of the main entrances was closed.

Canada to Retaliate Against U.S. Due to Helms-Burton Law

TORONTO (AFP) — Ottawa is expected to announce retaliatory measures against the United States next week as a result of the Helms-Burton Law concerning non-U.S. companies doing business in Cuba, a newspaper reported Thursday.

While an announcement was originally scheduled for Thursday the Canadian government decided to wait until next week, after Washington has announced details on how the law will be applied, the *Financial Post* said.

The new law allows former owners of land expropriated by the Fidel Castro government to sue foreign companies that have since bought their land from the Cuban government.

The Canadian measures, expected to be announced Monday by Trade Minister Arthur Eggleton, would be the first of any country against the U.S. law. The measure has caused a flurry of protests since it was signed into law March 12 by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The *Financial Post* reported that Ottawa would announce a series of measures to strengthen enforcement of its foreign extraterritorial measures acts.

They would include allowing Canadian companies hurt by the U.S. law to take U.S. companies to court in Canada, enabling Canadian firms to receive compensation if the U.S. companies have assets in Canada.

In recent years Canada's investments in Cuba have grown, especially in mining, tourism and energy.

Britain to Respond to EU Slaughter Demands

BRUSSELS (AFP) — European acceptance of British plans to slaughter cattle in a bid to eradicate so-called mad cow disease hinged Friday on London's response to European demands that the program be greatly enlarged.

Britain has proposed culling some 80,000 cattle born between 1990 and 1993 and susceptible to have developed bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) from eating contaminated feed.

But members of the European Union Veterinary Committee said Wednesday that cattle born in 1989 and 1990, some 20,000 additional animals, should be included to reduce still further the risk of BSE being passed on to humans.

The British view is that this is unnecessary, given the incubation period of BSE, meaning that animals born earlier, that have not contracted the disease, can be deemed to be healthy.

In addition, the lack of a proper system of registering the birth of cattle before 1990 would complicate the problem.

But EU sources said here that if Britain did not comply at a new meeting of the Veterinary Committee set for Friday 0800 GMT, agreement on lifting the embargo on British beef exports imposed on March 27 would be seriously jeopardized.

Friday's meeting took place as the row over mad cow disease, already heightened by London's policy of blocking EU decisions until the embargo is removed, worsened Thursday with revelations that Britain had continued to export potentially-tainted feed while banning it at home.

EU Commission President Jacques Santer, speaking in Lisbon, said late Thursday that Brussels was prepared to find a solution with Britain as quickly as possible, but he added: "Not just any solution."

"I hope we will reach a solution because it is not a political problem but one of eradicating so-called mad cow disease," Santer said after talks with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres.

The head of the EU executive said Britain must put forward a comprehensive slaughter program along with all necessary measures for rooting out BSE, so that consumer confidence in beef is restored and the embargo on British exports progressively removed.

"We want this problem to be resolved on a scientific basis and not on political grounds," Santer added. "I believe that it is a matter of public health and I do not believe this problem can be reduced to politics."

Asked about the latest revelations, made in the British scientific journal *Nature*, that British feed exports had persisted to Europe, particularly France, Israel and Thailand, Santer agreed that they had not been banned as the feed could still be supplied to other animals like pigs and poultry.

"It was up to national authorities to ensure that it was not used for feeding cattle," he said.

Santer's predecessor Jacques Delors, speaking on French television Thursday, said that at the critical time at the end of the 1980s the EU had no jurisdiction over the movement of animal feed.

He said British Prime Minister John Major should seek rapprochement.

Major should "stop thinking of the mad cow affair as his own Falklands war and take a step in the direction of others," Delors said, adding he was shocked to see a country "consider its (animal) feed as dangerous for itself and then export it".

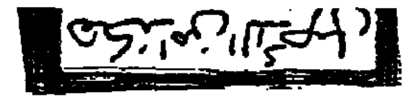
China-U.S. Resume Talks on Copyright Dispute

BEIJING (AFP) — China and the United States on Friday began a second day of formal talks on a row over copyright abuse that risks flaring into a wider trade conflict if no solution is found by Monday, the Ministry for External Trade said.

The United States told China Thursday it needed reassurances that China was determined to apply a bilateral agreement in February 1995 under which it would crack down on piracy of U.S. musical, computer and movie rights.

Acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky is on her way to Beijing to conduct further talks Saturday and Sunday.

The two sides have to reach a compromise by Monday, at which time two billion dollars' worth of U.S. trade sanctions will come into effect.



TV Programs

Saturday Evening, June 15

National Network. Channel 1:

13:09 Focus on Family
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:00 Weekly Quiz Show
15:45 Interlude
16:00 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 Children's Program
18:00 Productivity
18:15 Qom's Friday Prayer Sermons
19:00 News
19:15 Sacrifice Narration
19:45 Local Program
20:05 Modern Energies
20:25 Review of Day's Major News Stories
20:46 Call to Prayer (Azan)
21:00 News
21:30 Commercials
21:40 Explaining the Arafah Prayer
21:50 Commercials
22:00 Iranian TV Series
22:45 The Week of Construction Jihad
22:55 Special Report on European Nations' Cup

National Network. Channel 2:

13:09 Religious Program
13:15 Interlude
13:30 Important Events in Iran During Last Year
14:00 Foreign TV Series
14:45 Educational Program
15:00 Mathematics
15:30 Elementary Arabic
16:00 Preuniversity Program
17:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements of life)
18:00 Children's Program
19:00 First Aid
19:15 Feature Movie
20:00 Religious Program
20:30 Cultural, Scientific News
20:46 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:50 Interlude
21:00 Iranian TV Series
22:00 Art & Thought
22:30 News
22:45 Notes of the Night
23:00 Weekly Feature Movie

National Network. Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
16:15 The Tops
16:30 The Best Sports Events
17:00 Religious Program
17:30 Sports Program
18:15 Interlude
18:30 Innovators
19:00 For Tomorrow
19:30 The New You Asked for It
19:45 Sports News
20:00 (Documentary)
20:46 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:50 Thought
21:00 Sports Roundup
22:45 News (in English)

National Network. Tehran Channel:

17:00 Local Information
18:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
18:10 Traveling
18:30 Tehran's News
18:45 Report on the City
19:00 Until Tomorrow
19:30 Feature Movie
19:45 Medical Points
20:00 Researchers
20:30 Commercial Program
20:46 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:50 Local Economy
21:00 Introducing Tehran Districts
21:15 Our Home
21:30 Face to Face
22:00 News
22:15 Report on the City
22:30 Digest
23:00 Report on the European Nations' Cup

Sunday Morning, June 16

National Network. Channel 1:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Good morning Iran
09:10 Children's Program
10:10 Iranian TV Series
11:00 Quiz Show
11:45 Modern Energies
12:10 Local Program
12:30 Focus on Family
13:05 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network. Channel 2:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Children's Program
06:45 Feature Movie
07:30 Art and Thought
08:00 First Aids
08:30 Mathematics
09:00 Elementary Arabic
09:30 Geography
09:45 Mathematics
10:00 Educational Program
10:10 Kids Corner
11:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements of life)
12:00 TV Programs Announcement
12:15 Interlude
12:30 Cinema and Theater in 1374 (1995)
13:05 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network. Channel 3:

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
07:45 Morning Exercises
08:00 (To be announced)
08:45 The Tops
09:00 morning Exercises
10:30 The Youth (in Shiraz)
11:00 The New You Asked for It
11:15 Thoughts

'Thousands' of European Sites Leave Toxic Legacy

BRUSSELS (Reuter) – Thousands of contaminated European sites promise a legacy of toxic pollutants seeping into the region's soil and water, EU Commissioner Ritt Bjerregaard said on Thursday.

The risks posed by polluted sites, while far less spectacular than notorious industrial accidents down the years, emphasize the need for EU-level environmental liability rules, the commissioner said.

"Apart from (accidents), there are literally thousands of other sites around Europe where pollutants have either been dumped without adequate controls into the environment or are seeping out gradually from underground tanks and industrial premises," she told a meeting of the Belgian Law Association.

Bjerregaard said the sites left a "plume of toxins and hazardous substances to contaminate land or groundwater or surface waters".

"It is essential, therefore, that we have a system which will force the people who cause such pollution to clean it up. Even more important, we must ensure that everyone engaged in potentially dangerous activities knows about the risks of being liable in this way so that they have a strong incentive to prevent the pollution happening in the first place," she added.

The EU executive has tried for some time to garner support among the 15 EU states for some form of common liability legislation, drawing fire from across industry for a 1993 policy paper which had not even prescribed specific action.

Bjerregaard said that the alternative to no liability rules at the EU level would be the patchwork of different ones which had already spread across the union.

"The option of no environmental liability rules, or only the age-old ones basing almost everything on proof of fault, simply does not exist," she said.

The European Commission will decide "either before or shortly after the August recess" on what course of action to take, she added.

No "Right" to Clean Air

The French Parliament on Thursday quashed a government proposal to enshrine in law "the right to breathe air which does not harm health", arguing it was legally unenforceable.

The national assembly amended a bill by Environment Minister Corinne Lepage to say that national and local authorities, within the limits of their powers, must make it their policy to ensure that citizens can breathe healthy air.

Ecologists cried foul, saying lawmakers had emptied the bill of its substance and abolished the right to clean air.

Lepage, an unaffiliated former environmental lawyer, told Parliament on presenting the bill on Wednesday that the preamble was not a "nest of contention" but "affirms a basic right".

However Pierre Mazeaud, veteran chairman of the influential parliamentary legal committee, said the wording she had proposed would have opened the door to endless litigation.

"Anyone who coughs, suffers from asthma or smokes too much would have been able to demand compensation from the state," he told the house.

The amended bill merely obliges French authorities to measure pollution, inform the public, reduce and limit toxic emissions and work to improve air quality in particular by a rational use of energy.

The Greens Party said the amendment had removed the only worthwhile article in the bill.

"On the eve of the third millennium, the French state no longer guarantees its residents air that is safe to breathe," the Greens said in a statement.

"After watering the text down under pressure from lobbies, this ultimate climbdown has finally emptied the bill of its content," the party said.

The legislators also amended the definition of air pollution in the bill. Some 500 amendments have been tacked on to the 40-article bill in an apparent filibuster.

Since Prime Minister Alain Juppe did not allow Lepage to use a fast-track procedure to push the bill through Parliament, it seems highly unlikely to be enacted before then summer recess on June 29. Failing that, the bill must either be reintroduced when Parliament reconvenes in the autumn, when the top legislative priority is the budget, or else quietly dropped.

Cosmonauts Take Space Walk for Pepsi

MOSCOW (AP) – Two Russian cosmonauts got into the spirit of capitalism Thursday, leaving the Mir orbital station for a five-hour spacewalk designed partly to film a soft-drink commercial.

Yuri Onufrienko and Yuri Usachev filmed the second part of a Pepsi advertisement alongside a giant model of a Pepsi can, the Interfax news agency reported. The first part was filmed during a similar spacewalk last month.

The American beverage giant Pepsico won't say exactly how much it paid the financially strapped Russian space agency to film the commercial, set to air next year, but said it was part of a seven-figure deal.

The cosmonauts were outside for a total of 5 hours, 42 minutes, leaving American astronaut Shannon Lucid inside to control the spacecraft, monitor the cosmonauts' life support systems and film the commercial.

They also took the walk to replace an instrument pack in Mir's outer shell and conduct experiments under the joint U.S.-Russian Mir program, Interfax said.

The new instrument pack will be used on the International Alpha Space Station, which will replace the aging Mir. The first Alpha module will be launched next year.

The "two Yuris", as they've been dubbed by the media, arrived on Mir in February for a five-month stay in orbit.

Lucid, a 53-year-old biochemist and the first American woman to live on Mir, arrived March 23.

Mitterrand Doctor on Trial for Disclosing Cancer

PARIS (Reuter) – Francois Mitterrand's personal physician Claude Gubler went on trial on Thursday charged with breaching medical secrecy by revealing that the late French president concealed his cancer from the nation for a decade.

Gubler, who made the disclosure in his book "The Great Secret" published a week after the 79-year-old Mitterrand died last January and immediately banned, faces up to a year in prison and a 100,000 franc ($20,000) fine.

At the request of Mitterrand's family, a judge banned Gubler's book within 24 hours of publication for violating privacy, but 40,000 copies had already been sold and the book was posted on the Internet.

Gubler wrote that the Socialist leader was first told that cancer had spread to his bones months after he was elected in 1981 but kept it a state secret for 11 years despite a pledge of public openness about his health, issuing misleading regular medical bulletins.

Mitterrand only disclosed that he was ill in 1992, when he had to undergo a first operation. Gubler said the painful prostate cancer had made him unfit to rule by November 1994.

American Art Lovers Meet Charles at Royal Academy

LONDON (AP) – Prince Charles inaugurated a newly restored gallery at the Royal Academy of Arts Thursday, surrounded by wealthy American art lovers who supported the project.

The heir to the throne cut a ribbon to reopen Gallery III, chatted to some of the 50 members present from the American Associates of the Royal Academy Trust and then took a stroll through the annual summer exhibition of new paintings, sculpture and architecture. The prince is president of the trust.

The academy, founded in 1768, is spending £7.9 million ($12.2 million) for air conditioning, humidity controls and fabric restoration. Completion is scheduled for 1999.

The academy's American supporters have raised £12.1 million ($18.9 million) since 1983 for academy building projects and an endowment fund.

"We are delighted to be here as we are all people who like art and we like the Royal Academy – there is no institution like it," said James C. Slaughter of New York City, a trustee and treasurer of the American Associates.

Elizabeth II Beats Longevity of Elizabeth I

LONDON (AP) – Queen Elizabeth II's lengthy reign overtook that of her namesake Queen Elizabeth I on Thursday.

But after 44 years and 128 days on the throne, Elizabeth II still has a long way to go to beat the formidable Queen Victoria's 63 years.

The first Elizabeth, who acceded to the throne in 1558, presided over one of the greatest periods of English power and culture.

She had many problems with her relatives – her sister Queen Mary had her locked up in the Tower of London – but was spared the pains of quarreling children. She died childless in 1603, having skillfully evaded the political entanglements of marriage.



CIUDAD GUATEMALA, Guatemala (June 11): A squatter and his children rest at the place they call home in Guatemala City. The man and his wife along with 200 others took over municipal lot in the Guatemalan capital and made makeshift shelters 15 days ago. Hundreds of poor families are squatting on city and private lands all over the capital having nowhere else to go.

(AFP PHOTO)

Fat Control

THERE's no simpler way to make your diet work than to ensure *it's low* in fat. And since this also helps your long term chances of staying healthy, you should start controlling fat today.

Here are the basic recommendations on fat:

To lose weight, cut fat in your food down to between 20 and 30 percent of the total calories you eat.

For best health, when you are the weight you want, keep your fat at a steady 30 to 35 percent of your total calorie intake.

Buying the right foods is where you start controlling fat. But it's not easy to sort out a supermarket shopping trolley that has the right amount of fat in it! After all, the fat you eat is often invisible - if fat only came as spreads and dressings, fat checking would be easier. But do you know how much fat you eat yhere is in your favorite cheese or in that ready meal that's so handy two or three times a week?

We've *devised* a *shopper's* plan for you to use whenever you buy food. And we've brought you the very latest low fat diet that's been proven to work by top obesity experts working at the Dunn Nutrition Unit in Cambridge.

Shopper's Low Fat Planner

Fill your trolley with the following low fat basic foods.

These shoud make up the majority of your daily eating.

Vegetables: asparagus, carrots, cabbage, brocolli, all salad leaves, peas, sprouts, cauliflower, leeks, onion, turnips, parsnips, tomatoes, pulses, such as beans.

Starches: potatoes, rice, porridge, *low-sugar cereals*, bread. Choose whole grains where possible for extra nourishment and *stomach filling power.*

Fresh Fruits: apple, apricot, orange, mango, kiwi, melon, grapes, banana, grapefruit, date, fig, peach, pear, plum.

TIP: Dried fruit is low in fat but high in sugar so buy springly.

Choose a few of the following *moderate to high fat foods.*

For occasional use during the week:

nuts, seeds, lean meat, low fat (skimmed) dairy produce, fish, low fat cheese, low fat spread, olive, corn or rapeseed oil for cooking.

TIP: *Oily fish* such as mackerel, herring, tuna and sardines are low in saturated fat but high in other, healthier fats. Eat them regularly in moderate amounts.

Remember, eating low fat doesn't mean going without. You are replacing fat with fiber-rich starchy foods which help fill you up healthily.

If you eat only the foods which you've worked out are low fat, you'll have a daily intake of less than 35 percent fat as some of those foods will be very low fat. So feel free to enjoy two or three high fat foods, in moderate portions, every day.

Why Bother Eating Less Fat?

Fat makes fat: Fat appears to slide invisibly into your body, ignored by your fullness monitoring system. It's more likely to be laid down as fat *than other nutrients* such as carbohydrates or protein.

Fat Has more calories: Fat contains a massive nine calories pergram — carbohydrate and protein have around four calories pergram.

Excess fat is a health risk: Eat too much fat now and you could be storing up extra risk of heart disease for your *future.* Saturated fat (hard fat; such as is found in dairy produce and meat) is the fat most likely to lead to a higher risk of heart disease. Replace it with liquid fats, such as olive oil.

Vegetable-oils in margarines may have been hydrogenated, a process which produces trans-fatty acids. These act like saturates in our body. If you cut down on fat in general you are probably cutting your *saturated fat level down* toon.

Tip: Fat isn't all bad. A small amount in your diet provides essential fatty acids and vitamins A, D and E. Under-twos should not have a low fat diet -- under fives also need a higher level of fat than adults.

Low Fat Swops

Make these changes in your choice of foods one by one to immediately and easily reduce fat:

SWOP	FOR
Wholo milk	skimmed or semi-skimmed
yogurt	low fat yogurt
meat pies/pasties	lean meat, poultry
ice cream	sorbet
cheddar cheese	low fat chedar/cottage cheese
crisps	low fat crisps
butter/polyunsaturated margarine	low fat spread
fish in oil	fish in brine
mayonnaise	low fat mayonnaise

Malaria Breakthrough by Australian Scientist

SYDNEY (AFP) — The parasite responsible for malaria, one of the world's biggest killers, has been identified as a plant, Australian scientists announced.

The breakthrough research by *Melbourne University botanist* Jeoff McFadden may be the first step in identifying a cure — possibly based on a herbicide harmless to humans — for the disease responsible for two million deaths a year.

McFadden said that he discovered while doing research on the evolutionary differences between plants and animals that science had been pursuing the wrong lead over the causes of malaria.

"This was research which was intended to see if a group of parasites which we had always assumed were animal parasites had been put under the wrong category they had," he told AFP recently.

His discovery, described in the latest issue of the international scientific journal Nature, followed work by British scientist Ian Wilson showing that the malaria parasite, known as plasmodium, contained what looked like plant genes.

McFadden said that a plant is defined by the presence of a plast, a parcel of genes that performs the vital task of photo-synthesis or coverting sunlight and carbon into plant energy.

He discovered a plast inside the malaria parasite during his research.

"We'd like to find out what this plant structure is doing in the parasite," McFadden added. "It is not photo-synthesizing, so it has got to he doing something else."

He said the parasite would not maintain the plant structure if it were not important in some way.

"So it has some special function and we want to know what it is from a scientific point of view. at the same time, when we identify that function it will identify something that we can use as a target with various types of therapeutic agents.

McFadden's team now plans to set up trials either in conjunction with a pharmaceutical company or independently if they can acquire research funding to do the work themselves.

He said herbicides would be examined first, because they have specific targets in plants.

"So we can take each of those off the shelf, put them against the parasite and if it kills the parasite or at least closes it down we can say it is targeting function X," McFadden said.

The herbicide sould then be identified as potentially useful and something from which a treatment could be developed, he said.

McFadden cautioned that it was impossible to say how long it would take to develop a cure because it was not known which herbicide would be effective. "These things take a lot of time," he said.

THOUGHT

INITIATIVE is doing the right thing without being told.

Victor Hugo French writer

PRAYER

Noon	13:05
Evening	20:46
Dawn (tomorrow)	3:49
Sunrise (tomorrow)	5:48

TODAY IN HISTORY

1988 - Dalai Lama, exiled leader of Tibet, recognizes China's right to run Tibet's foreign affairs and to maintain troops in that Himalayan nation.

1989 - Several hundred people are arrested on charges of "organizing pogroms, murder and violence" in Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan.

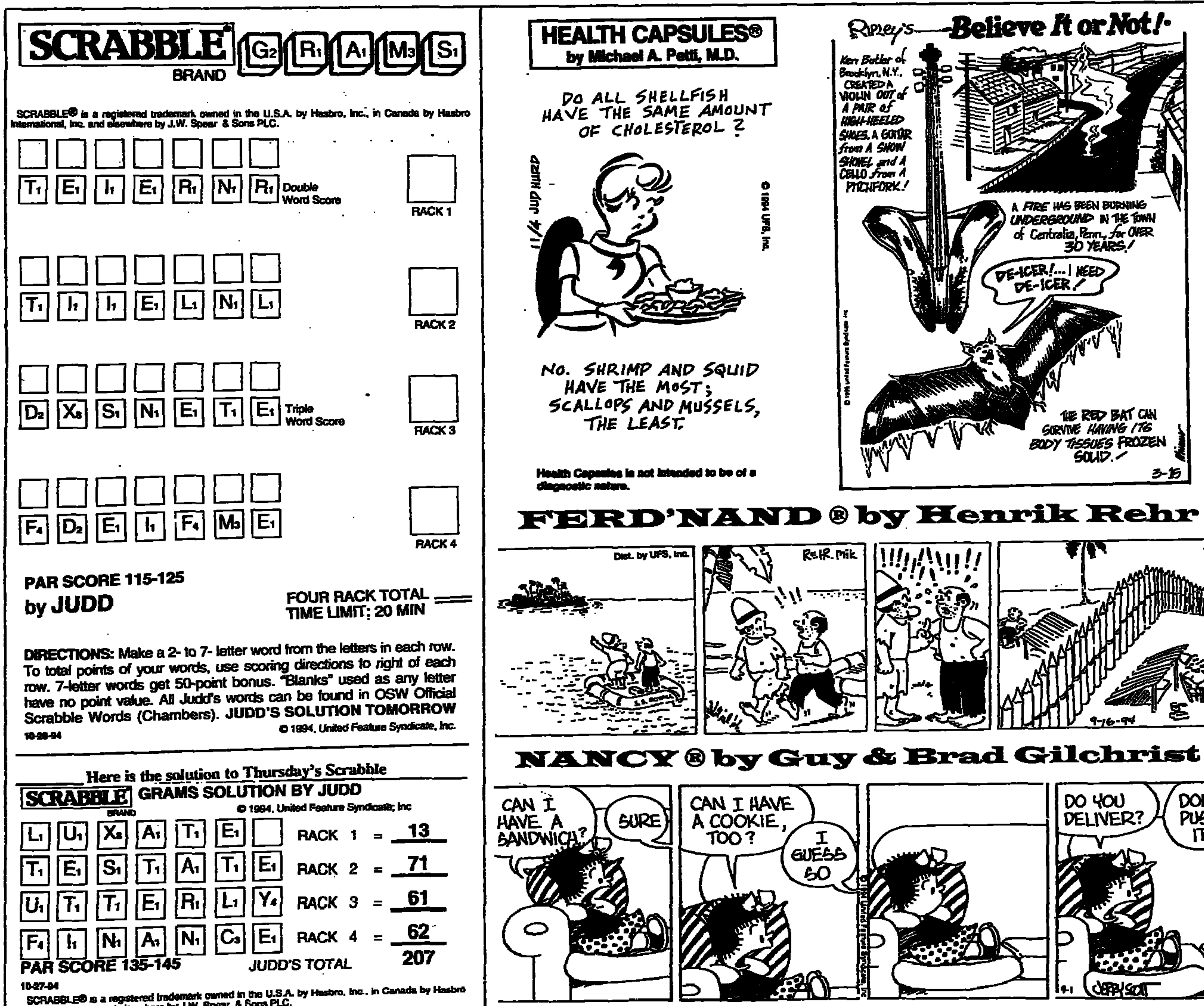
1990 - U.S. State Department says Washington will withhold economic aid to Romanian after encampment of student protesters was routed by police and miners.

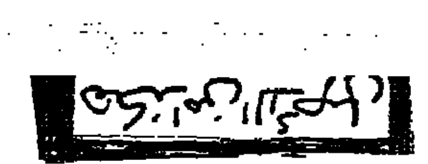
1991 - Kuwait's martial law court sentences six newspaper workers to death for working on an Iraqi publication during the occupation of Kuwait.

1992 - Parliament gives final approval to use of Japanese troops overseas for the first time since World War II.

1993 - Gorazde is hit with heavy Serb shelling for the 19th day in a row, and the UN aid airlift is suspended.

1994 - Hundreds of Rwandans crowd into Kigali's open air market, determined to fill their cupboards despite warfare that has ripped their country apart.





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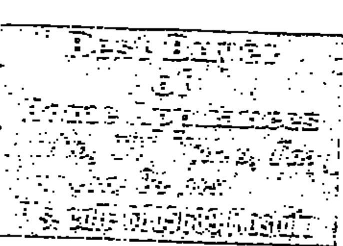
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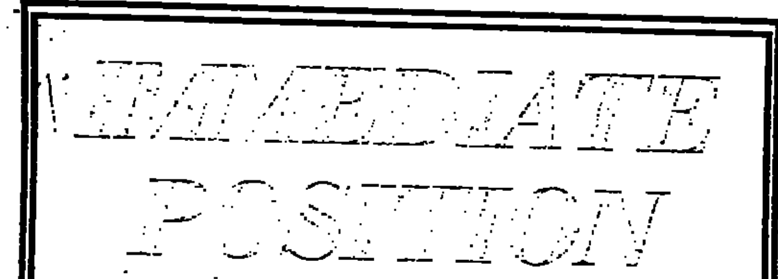
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Russian Reforms, Yeltsin's Political Life Hang on Vote



MOSCOW, Russian Federation: Combo of three shows recent file pictures of three of the main candidates for the upcoming Russian presidential election, to be held in Russia on June 16. (L to R) Vladimir Zhirinovski, leader of the ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, current President Boris Yeltsin, and Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the communist Congress of the National Patriotic Forces.

(AFP PHOTO)

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's economic and democratic reforms will be in the balance Sunday when voters decide between President Boris Yeltsin and communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov.

The election is Russia's first as a post-Soviet country, a decisive stage in the pained and sometimes bloody transition from a totalitarian state to a modern democracy.

Yeltsin, 65, who has been in power since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, is campaigning on a platform of continuing economic reforms. That is "the essence of my policy for the next four years," he said.

Zyuganov, a 51-year-old lifelong apparatchik, has rescued the Communist Party from near oblivion and captured a big share of Parliament seats in 1994.

Now he hopes to ride the red wave all the way to the Kremlin, capitalizing on the widespread disillusion and social upheaval caused by Yeltsin's reforms.

He plans "voluntary" restoration of the Soviet Union and an increase in state control over the economy.

The latest opinion polls put Yeltsin far ahead of Zyuganov, a remarkable recovery from his late 1995 doldrums when he suffered two minor heart attacks in four months and was widely written off as a bumbling has-been with little popular support.

However, neither front-runner is expected to win more than 50 percent of the vote on Sunday, meaning a second-round runoff will have to be held in July.

The latest poll by Vtsiom Institute gave Yeltsin 36 of the vote, to Zyuganov's 24, while the Romir Institute's latest estimate put the race at 34 and 23 percent respectively.

Opinion polls are notoriously unreliable in Russia, a country of 106 million voters in 11 time zones, and many communist supporters are believed to not give their real intentions over the phone.

However, a breakneck campaign schedule and the showering of populist presents ranging from tractors to a decree ending military conscription, have apparently paid off with steadily rising support for the buoyant new Yeltsin.

Zyuganov, who is far less charismatic and has been practically muzzled by the pro-Yeltsin television channels, has long been stuck at about the 23 percent mark, apparently unable to broaden his base of support.

There will be eight other candidates on the ballot, including fiery ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, urbane reformer Grigory Yavlinsky, nationalist ex-General Alexander Lebed and a host of no-hopers including the last Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Zhirinovsky, Yavlinsky and Lebed are forecast to win between six and eight percent each in the first round of voting Sunday.

This makes all of them potential kingmakers in the second round, able to pressure either Yeltsin or Zyuganov for posts in a future government in return for their supporters' votes.

Despite the apparently clear choice, as it is seen above all in the West, the two front-runners' positions are remarkably close in many areas.

On the campaign trail, Yeltsin often sounds like Zyuganov, poaching the communist electorate by making many of the same promises — increased social spending, closer integration with ex-Soviet states and a tough stance in relations with the West.

Even well before the election, Yeltsin, also a communist for most of his life, drastically slowed down his economic reforms and he has showed his hard-line colors in the brutal suppression of the independence uprising in Chechnya.

Zyuganov has tried to bring his own policies closer to Yeltsin's, portraying himself as a social democrat and vowing not to drag Russia back into its grim past.

"There's not a huge difference between Zyuganov and Yeltsin," said Nikolai Petrov, an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace, adding that Yeltsin also has strong authoritarian instinct unchanged from his days as communist boss.





MOSCOW, Russian Federation: Combo of three other candidates. (L to R) Independent candidate, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Grigory Yavlinski, leader of the "Yabloko" ('Apple') political movement and Sviatoslav Fedrov, leader of the Party of Working People's self-government.

(AFP PHOTO)

MOSCOW, Russian Federation: Combo of three other candidates. (L to R) Independent candidates Martin Shakkum, Vladimir Bryntsalov and former Russian Army General Alexander Lebed.

(AFP PHOTO)

Britain Wonders If Major Can Last Until 1997

LONDON (Reuter) — Last June British Prime Minister John Major tried to regain a grip over his fractious Conservative Party by inviting a challenge to his leadership.

It was a political gamble that, for a fleeting moment after Major defeated right-wing ex-Minister John Redwood, looked as if it might restore the prime minister's political authority.

But a year on, Major is once again having so much trouble keeping his party in line that serious questions are being asked about his ability to stave off an early general election.

Major would like to delay the ballot until next spring — the last possible date is May 22 — but with an overall majority of just one in the 651-seat Lower House of Commons the potential for fatal political accidents is growing by the day.

"There is an end-of-term feeling emerging in the House of Commons. One just feels that we're preparing for a general election this autumn," John Taylor of the Ulster Unionists, the biggest Northern Ireland party, said.

Taylor was commenting on the frank admission by two Conservative members of Parliament from north London that they had threatened to withdraw their support for the government unless a full casualty ward was retained at a local hospital.

Major was said to be outraged by the attempted blackmail, and Conservative business managers were expected to rebuke the two MPs. But one of them, Sir John Gorst, made no bones about his willingness to exploit the government's wafer-thin majority.

"You can call it weak government, but what you do get is the opportunity for people to plead a cause with some power behind them," Gorst said.

Three MPs have deserted Major in the last nine months — one to Labour, another to the Liberal Democrats, and the third to sit as an independent Conservative — and the odds are that death or defection will erase his majority before polling day.

Even if that were to happen, strategists of the opposition Labour Party play down the chances of winning a vote of confidence — which would trigger an election — not least because the nine Ulster Unionist MPs know they would have less political leverage if they abandoned Major and backed Labour.

Former Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan showed in the 1970s how it was possible in Britain for a government that did not even have an overall majority to soldier on for years by cutting backroom deals with minor parties.

But what must be worrying for Major is the growing willingness of his MPs to rebel and threaten defeats over single issues. Last week, MP Terry Dicks did just that in protest against the choice of former U.S. Senator George Mitchell to chair Northern Ireland peace talks.

The muscle-flexing comes on top of Major's usual headaches with his MPs over Europe.

In a symbolic vote on Tuesday, nearly a quarter of Conservative MPs backed a referendum on Britain's role in Europe — in blatant defiance of government policy.

Although Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke dismissed the vote as "gesture politics", it confirmed that the internal divisions over Europe that have dogged Major's 5-1/2 years in office are as deep as ever.

Passions over Europe have been whipped up further by Major's determination to block European Union business until it lifts a ban on British beef exports imposed because of fears that mad cow disease can be transmitted to humans.

Some pro-European MPs — including Hugh Dykes, who made a stand with Gorst over their local hospital — have made no secret of their disenchantment with the hard-line tactics.

At the same time, Euroskeptic Conservatives who fiercely oppose closer European ties will have the knives out for Major if he drops the noncooperation policy without a firm timetable for the export ban to be lifted.

In short, Major has unleashed forces he can not properly control. He must try to scrape through to the middle or end of July, to the long parliamentary recess, without a new flash point that could give Labour the chance to strike.

"It is now clear that any Tory backbencher can push this government around," deputy Labour leader John Prescott said after the Gorst-Dykes hospital rebellion.

"They have got the prime minister completely on the run here. He is losing all authority in his party, he is losing all authority in Europe, and he is losing all authority to be prime minister," he said at a news conference.

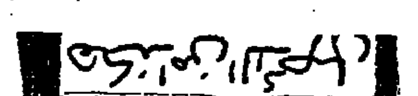
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Cockroach Allergies Blamed for Severity of Asthma Among Poor Children



MOGADISCIO, Somalia: (FILES) File photo dated July 28, 1993 shows a nurse vaccinating a child in Mogadiscio. In its 1996 report, "Nations' Progress," UNICEF underlines the responsibility of rich countries in worldwide child poverty.

(AFP PHOTO)

WASHINGTON (AP) – Five years ago, a team of researchers set out to determine why asthma is such a severe urban health problem.

They penetrated the worst neighborhoods in seven big cities and spent $17 million vacuuming up dust, administering allergy tests and poring over the medical records of poor children.

In a few months, their first formal reports will hit the medical journals. Perhaps 50 papers eventually will be published. But in the end, the piles of data largely boil down to a single nasty word:

Cockroaches.

The surprising result is likely, in time, to change the way the medical world thinks about childhood asthma. Already, those in charge of the study view these bugs as a serious public health hazard.

Dr. Richard Evans, an asthma specialist at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, hardly paused when asked to name the single most urgent step to prevent the problem he treats every day.

"The one thing I would do is help people eliminate cockroaches," he answered.

Certainly, other problems besides roaches contribute to asthma among the poor — decrepit housing, the mediocre quality of doctoring at some clinics, fragmented families where no one adult takes charge of children's health care.

Furthermore, asthma is hardly restricted to the poor; it is the most common chronic illness of childhood and seems to be increasing everywhere.

Kids' asthma usually is caused by an allergic reaction to a substance that makes them wheeze, called an antigen. And of all the possible asthma-provoking materials youngsters encounter in homes, cockroach antigens appear to be the most powerful.

Identifying the antigens in poor children's asthma was a top goal of the National Cooperative Inner City Asthma Study. At the start, the experts assumed it would turn out to be the dust mite, the ubiquitous microscopic bug that, along with cats, is the leading cause of asthma in the suburbs.

But no. After testing 1,528 children under age 10 and visiting half of their homes, the leading antigen by far was proteins in the droppings and carcasses of blattella germanica, the German cockroach.

It turned out that 38 percent of the asthmatic youngsters were allergic to roaches. But even more surprising to the doctors involved were the staggering quantities of cockroach crud in these children's apartments.

A hint of wonder, even horror, tinges the researchers' voices when they talk about where they found cockroach residue.

Levels often were sky-high in kitchens, of course, and bathrooms. But the stuff was everywhere in the apartments — even the beds.

"There were huge levels of cockroach antigens, much higher than has ever been reported," said Dr. Peyton Eggleston of Johns Hopkins University, one of the researchers. "Almost every house had detectable levels."

This is not much of a surprise to Keith Larue, an exterminator for American pest management of Tacoma Park, Maryland, who helped gather samples for the study. One recent beautiful spring morning, he made his rounds through some of the most depressing neighborhoods in Washington.

His first stop was a dark one-bedroom basement apartment in a big brick complex. Stomach-churning stink filled the dead air.

"What you smell," he said simply, "is roach."

The levels of infestation are particularly important because Dr. Alkis Togias of Johns Hopkins, who is looking at a cross–section of teen-age asthma victims in Baltimore, found that the more cockroaches in victims' homes, the greater their chance of being allergic to roaches and the more severe their asthma.

Half of the poor asthma victims in his study were allergic to roaches, compared with just 10 percent of adolescents from upper-income families.

For years, people have speculated that an increase in asthma is a result of outdoor air pollution — but that is almost certainly not the cause. Air quality has improved substantially in recent decades for everyone. Neither is cigarette exposure, since smoking too has fallen off.

"All the things that seem to make asthma worse are decreasing. So asthma should be getting better," said Dr. Peter Gergen of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which sponsored the inner-city study.

The opposite is happening. The proportion of Americans who say they have asthma has risen 45 percent in the past decade; it now stands as 14 million to 15 million, about a third of them under age 18.

Deaths are rare — just 3,850 for people under age 25 between 1980 and 1993 — but they are increasing as well.

The reason for this scourge may be the same for the poor and well-off alike — exposure to antigen-laden indoor air.

All homes built since the 1960s — and that includes lots of low-income housing — are tight and well-insulated. However, a draft-free home may not be entirely a good thing.

"As we built more energy-efficient structures, humans now breathe less fresh air than they ever have," Brenner said.

With little air exchange, antigens from bugs, molds, cats and dogs build up inside the house. Wall-to-wall carpeting, another feature of new construction, grows heavy with trapped antigens, even in clean-looking homes.

People stir this stuff up whenever they walk around. And as the indoor air gets worse, they breathe more of it, because all of us — especially children — spend so much time inside.

Television and video games are not the only reason. Children who used to be outdoors are now indoors because parents are afraid to let them outside.

In a few months, their first formal reports will hit the medical journals. Perhaps 50 papers eventually will be published. But in the end, the piles of data largely boil down to a single nasty word: Cockroaches.

Croatia — Land of a Thousand Islands

KORCULA ISLAND, Croatia (Reuter) – If Finland is known as the "land of a thousand lakes", Croatia may yet become known as the "land of a thousand islands".

Of 1,185 rocky pieces of land surrounded by the intensely blue waters of the Adriatic Sea, a cluster of big islands off Croatia's Dalmatian coast stand out not only for their natural beauty and subtropical sun, but also their cultural depth.

"The Croatian coast is as beautiful as any place in Europe. People in the West know about Dubrovnik but they don't know about the islands," said David Gonzales, an American journalist. "They are absolutely charming."

Positioned between Split and Dubrovnik, the islands of Brac, Hvar, Korcula, Vis, Lastovo and Mljet, and the Peljesac Peninsula, form a natural micro-world diverse in itself.

The best way to visit the islands of southern Dalmatia is to rent a yacht and sail from one to another.

A weekly rent for a 43-foot (13 meter) yacht for eight persons is between $2,300 and $3,000, depending on the season.

The first island on a cruise from the main port of split to the famed old Venetian town of Dubrovnik is Brac, a peasants' and fishermen's haven with olive orchards, sheep and donkeys.

Without a main town, it is rimmed by small settlements situated in picturesque bays along the coast.

The best known locale on Brac is Bol on its southern shore. Bol is a paradise for surfers with the breeze which always blows from St Vitus Hill above the village.

Bol's pebble beach Zlatni Rat (Golden Cape) extends far into the sea, changing shape with breezes that blow from one direction in the morning and the other in the evening.

Just south of Brac is Hvar, a highly cultured island with a renaissance merchant port of the same name.

Hvar and the next two islands, Vis and Korcula, were inhabited by Greeks more than 2,000 years ago, hence their names. Pharos became Hvar, Issa evolved into Vis, and Korkyra Melania is today's Korcula.

Sailing into Hvar's harbor offers a unique experience. As a boat slowly comes around a promontory, a renaissance town from a fairy tale opens up like a big white shell.

Above a line of palm trees straddling the main quay, marble palaces, a mediaeval arsenal, monasteries, arcades and bell towers reflect the blazing Mediterranean sun.

On an archipelago of islets off Hvar called Pakleni Otoci (Devil Islands), one can choose between hundreds of isolated coves with pebble beaches and limpid azure water.

Thick green pine woods and lavender fields give Hvar its typical fine scent of an aromatic botanic garden.

The loud murmur of crickets adds an aural dimension to this symphony of colors and shapes, scents and tastes.

On small green patches stolen from the steep limestone rock of Hvar's south shore grows a variety of grapes that yield classical Dalmatian drink. The best known is Zlatan Plavac from the winery of Zlatan Plenkovic, a pioneer of private vineyards that budded in Croatia after the fall of communism.

If Hvar is known for its exquisite red, Korcula is Croatia's leading producer of quality whites. It is difficult to choose between Posip, Rukatac and Grk, produced from the original grapes of the same name.

Perhaps the best is Posip, a dry white with full taste, an inevitable addition to Dalmatia's speciality — grilled fish with boiled potatoes and beetroot seasoned with olive oil.

Korcula's old town with its lovely fortresses and winding narrow streets paved with marble stones is built in the form of a fish bone. The main local attraction is the original folk dance Moreska depicting a mediaeval arms tournament.

Korcula is perhaps the most cultivated of Croatian islands. Neat vineyards and olive tree terraces divided by low stone walls into small quadrants cover its gentle hillsides.

Nazli Weiss, an American working for Atlas Travel Agency, is trying to bring the new variety of Croatian drinks to the attention of foreign guests expected to start coming back to southern Dalmatia now that war in former Yugoslavia is over.

While Croatia's north coast, including Istria Peninsula, had quite respectable tourist seasons because it was well removed from war zones, Dalmatia south of Zadar was considered dangerous and virtually bereft of foreign visitors.

"We are trying to set up a wine tour to deal with southern Dalmatia," said Weiss.

The main stop of the tour, which includes Hvar, Korcula and Mljet islands, is the Peljesac Peninsula positioned between the Neretva River Delta and Korcula.

From the 100-km (60 mile) long and narrow rugged peninsula come perhaps the best Croatian drinks — Dingac and Postup of the Potomje. The two got their names from two scenic positions on the sun-beaten south side of Peljesac.

Apart from drinks, Peljesac is famous for its fat and tasty oysters grown at the Ston Sea Food Farm located on Ston Bay at the foot of the peninsula.

Three other islands include Mljet, whose dark pine woods and two inner lakes are protected as a national park, and Vis and Lastovo, two outer islands abundant with fish.

Sailing into Hvar's harbor offers a unique experience. As a boat slowly comes around a promontory, a renaissance town from a fairy tale opens up like a big white shell.

French Scientists See Mad Cow-CJD Link in Monkeys

PARIS (Reuter) – French government scientists said on Thursday they had found the first experimental evidence of a link between mad cow disease and its human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), in work on monkeys.

Two neurologists working for the Atomic Energy Commission and the French Army Health Service said their research showed striking similarities between brain lesions in monkeys injected with the crushed brains of cows infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), and a new form of CJD observed in humans.

Their study, to be published by the British scientific journal *Nature*, lends new weight to the theory that BSE can be passed to humans, although they stressed it did not prove that.

The European Union banned exports of British beef and live cattle in March after the British government acknowledged the possible link between the two diseases.

Scientists Corinne Lasmezas and Jean-Philippe Deslys said they had injected the brain concentrate into two adult macaque monkeys and a newly-born one in 1991.

Three years later, all three began to show behavioral disorders — anxiety, nervousness and depression — and had developed identical brain lesions and died.

"This is the first experimental evidence supporting a link between BSE and the new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in man," Lasmezas told a news conference.

The scientists, who had been studying BSE, said they had only been alerted to the possible link with CJD by the British announcement and had then compared their results with new cases of the human disease observed in Edinburgh, Scotland in mid-May in sufferers under the age of 40.

Deslys said the brain lesions were "very close, strikingly similar" and constituted "a first experimental argument for a causal link between the bovine illness and the new form of CJD in the British patients".

He said the lesions were flower-shaped patches surrounded by cavities.

The researchers said they injected the concentrate directly into the monkeys' brains rather than giving it to them orally.

They declined to say firmly whether BSE can be transmitted to humans but said their findings called for further research.

In March, British scientists said they had identified a new form of CJD that was probably caused by eating beef infected with BSE. The new strain shows a slightly different pattern from earlier forms, first identified early in the century.

British government experts say BSE was caused by feeding cows the remains of sheep that had been infected with scrapie, their own version of the disease.

In experiments they have injected bits of BSR-infected cows into mice and other animals. It has infected several other species this way, creating the signature sponge-like holes in the brain and deposits of proteins.

Habitat Summit the Last in a UN Series

ISTANBUL (AFP) — The UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) — billed as the last great UN summit of the century — which ends on Friday, is the ultimate in a series of world meetings begun in 1990.

First was the World Summit for Children, held in September, 1990, at the UN headquarters in New York, which was the brain-child of the late James Grant, executive director of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The children's summit pioneered the participation of heads of state in UN conferences to engage high-level commitments from governments and adopted a plan of action which set specific goals for the year 2,000 for children's health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation.

According to UN figures, the children's summit brought together 150 governments and 71 heads of state or government, was reported on by 1,500 press, and cost $2,890,765.

Two years later in June, 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development, otherwise known as the Earth Summit, was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

One hundred and seventy-two governments took part, and 108 heads of state or government attended. With 9,500 accredited press, media attendance was the highest of any summit, as was the budget — some $10,087,400.

After discussing the earth, the world's leaders congregated in Vienna in June, 1993, for the World Conference on Human Rights. Some 1,950 journalists reported as 171 governments deliberated, and the UN shelled out some $1,870,400.

Just over a year later, in September, 1994, 179 governments and 4,200 members of the press converged in Cairo for the International Conference on Population and Development, which cost $2,159,300.

Then came the World Summit for Social Development, held in March, 1995, in Copenhagen, Denmark, with 186 governments, 2,800 journalists and a UN bill of $2,400,000.

From social development, the international community next focussed its attention on the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China, in September, 1995, with a UN budget of $3,370,000.

Some 3,250 press members witnessed the deliberations of 189 governments.

Habitat II, the UN Conference on Human Settlements, dubbed the City Summit, by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, opened in Istanbul on June 13, and was scheduled to complete its work on Friday.

The radical innovation of the conference, which follows a first urban summit, Habitat I, held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976, is that the views of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other nongovernmental bodies are being incorporated into the conference's final documents.

Around 160 governments and more than 3,000 journalists have attended, according to figures issued at the beginning of the conference.

Habitat II's budget is a mere $1,732,800, according to UN figures, which, as all the above figures, includes the cost of preparatory negotiations usually spanning two years.

The sums do not include the cost to the host government for conference facilities, security, local staff and travel and hotels for UN personnel.



NEW YORK, United States: File photo dated December 6, 1994 shows homeless children demonstrating in New York. The 1996 UNICEF report, "Nations' Progress," cites the responsibility of rich nations in worldwide child poverty.

(AFP PHOTO)

Predictions of New UN Chief Still Premature

UNITED NATIONS (Reuter) — Pressure is growing for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to say whether he will seek a second term this year as other candidates emerge for his job as the world's top diplomat.

But the 73-year-old Egyptian professor, whose five-year term expires this year, is not expected to make any statement for months as he travels around the world assessing his chances for reelection.

Any decision "will take him a couple of months, at least two or three months," said UN spokesman Ahmad Fawzi.

Meanwhile, prominent women — Mary Robinson, the president of Ireland, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister of Norway, and Sadako Ogata of Japan, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees — are U.S. and British media candidates.

More concretely, Robinson admitted she had been approached for the job, tantamount in UN diplomatic parlance to acknowledging a serious candidacy. She begins a visit to the United States this week, starting with a keynote address to the Foreign Policy Association in New York.

The choice has to be made sometime in November but unless Washington decides it will veto Boutros-Ghali for a second term, no nation will seriously oppose him, diplomats say.

To the contrary, African countries, backed by many Third World states — and possibly France, China and Russia also — are likely to balk at any move to deny Boutros-Ghali a second term given to his predecessors Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru, Kurt Waldheim of Austria and U Thant of Burma.

And even his most vocal critics concede Boutros-Ghali has a long list of acquaintances among government leaders, dating back to his days as acting foreign minister and his key work on the 1979 Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel.

French President Jacques Chirac, asked in Geneva if he was supporting Boutros-Ghali, said relations were "cordial and trusting" between the secretary-general and France.

There were no other candidates, he said "so the question does not arise, and I hope it is not raised too much between now and the election."

But while Washington can block Boutros-Ghali, it has little chance of uniting members in choosing his replacement.

"An overt American endorsement of a candidate won't work," said Jeffrey Laurenti, director of policy studies for the UN Association of the United States, a private think tank.

"In fact, the whole U.S. delinquency issue would actually be a major handicap," he said in reference to the $1.5 million U.S. debt that is bankrupting the United Nations.

In recent weeks, several American and British newspapers and magazines have spoken of Boutros-Ghali's ouster as a near certainty. He was accused of so many easily refuted abuses that former U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, a Republican, jumped to his defense.

Hence some envoys believe there is an effort to break precedent and promote a woman. "Gender beats geography, said one Western European envoy on the Security Council.

Others believe that if European women are rejected, Washington is ready with an African candidate, Kofi Annan of Ghana, the under-secretary-general for peacekeeping, who has escaped blame for wobbly UN operations in Somalia or Bosnia.

The speculation is in part due to the secrecy in which a secretary-general is chosen. Candidates are not nominated publicly, any country can suggest someone and no open criteria are set. The 185-seat General Assembly appoints a secretary-general on recommendation of the 15-seat Security Council.

This gives a decisive role to the five permanent council members — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France, who each have a veto.

For the Clinton administration, the job of finding a successor in the middle of a presidential race may be an issue it wants to avoid until after the November U.S. election, in light of Republican hostility to Boutros-Ghali and the United Nations as a whole.

"Much as they might like to send Boutros-Ghali back to the Nile, they cannot be sure they will get someone more to their liking," said Laurenti. "He certainly has carried water often enough and appointed Americans where it was important."

Such key posts include the head of the UN Children's Fund, the head of the UN Development Program, the former chief envoy of the abortive Somalia operation and the current head of the UN mission in Croatia's eastern Slavonia region.

At the same time, Boutros-Ghali has consistently refused to change his assessment of an international crisis, usually analyzed from several angles before reaching a conclusion even if he was unable to impose it on member states.

But even his supporters believe he has never found the right words or tone to communicate to an American public. He avoids impromptu media sessions as much as possible in the belief that "the best diplomacy is not that conducted by the sound bite or the hastily arranged media conference."

Moral statements or warnings of disasters in such places as Rwanda are often made solely to the Security Council or in a UN document. "This campaign, if that is what he is doing, is typical — lobby the governments, not the public," said one UN official. "It's part of a UN culture."

Bosnian PM Proposes Refugees-for-Cash Deal

BONN (AFP) — Bosnia's prime minister has offered Bonn a refugees-for-cash deal, saying he would accept the return of 100,000 Bosnian refugees in return for two billion German marks ($1.3 billion), a Germany daily reported.

Hasan Muratovic told the daily *Die Zeit* he had held talks with federal and regional authorities in Germany in which he had said: "I can accept the return of 100,000 refugees if Germany pays between 10,000 and 20,000 marks ($6,600 to 13,000) a person."

The money was needed to make the refugees' homes habitable, he told the paper.

An official at the German Interior Ministry told *Die Zeit* however that Germany would not accept the proposal. The financial strings attached by Sarajevo were hindering negotiations, said the spokesman, who was not named by the paper.

He said there was no way that Bonn, having paid to house refugees in Germany, would now pay for their return home.

With 300,000 Bosnian refugees on its soil, Germany has housed more displaced persons from the Bosnian conflict than any other Western European country, and sentiment in Germany against the refugees has been growing in recent months.

Most of the refugees are Muslims who were driven from their homes by Bosnian Serbs in the first brutal months of the three-and-a-half-year war in 1992.

Under Muratovic's proposal, however, the 100,000 returnees would be returned to homes in the western Bosnian region.

If refugees are not able to return to their own former homes, which need restoration, they will have to be resettled in houses abandoned by Bosnian Serbs who fled the region in 1995, added Muratovic, renowned for his tough negotiating stance since taking over as premier earlier this year.

Wolfgang Zeitlmann, a senior official of the right-wing Christian Social Union, said Muratovic's proposal, was "shameful and absolutely out of the question."

Attacking Bosnia as "a state without any scruples" he said Germany "should even reconsider the aid it is giving to help the reconstruction" of the war-ravaged country.

Germany has said, after several delays, that it will start sending the first of its Bosnian refugees back to Bosnia in October.

ICRC Denies Dead Burundi Workers Were Warned

GENEVA (Reuter) — The International Committee of the Red Cross denied a Burundi Army report that three ICRC representatives killed in the Central African country a week ago were traveling into a dangerous area.

"This assertion is false. Our team was not warned," ICRC spokesman Roland Wavre told Reuters.

Wavre said the three, for whom a memorial service was being held in Geneva's St Peter's cathedral, had in fact been given clearance to travel by a senior army official in the town of Mugina shortly before the incident.

The three men, all Swiss, died when their two vehicles, both marked with the humanitarian organization's distinctive Red Cross emblem, was raked with gunfire just a few kilometers from the town of Mugina in Burundi's troubled Cibitoke Province.

"The head of the Garrison in Mugina had given them the green light to move on just a short while before the shooting," Wavre said.

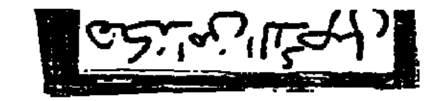
According to a preliminary report from the Burundi Army, a military patrol on the road between Mugina and Rugombo had told the ICRC team it was "extremely dangerous" to continue the journey towards the capital, Bujumbura.

The report asserted that the three pushed on "even though they were told there were Hutu rebels all along the road".

But Wavre said the team had been given no sign by the patrol of danger ahead.

The Geneva-based ICRC has suspended its operations in Burundi because of the attack. It pulled its remaining eight foreign staff out of the country after receiving anonymous telephoned threats.

The Swiss-run body is carrying out its own investigation of the incident, which the report by the Tutsi-dominated Burundi Army blamed on Hutu rebels.



Sports Highlights

Tehran Times Service

ATHLETICS

ATLANTA — Double world champion Michael Johnson puts his domineering speed on final approach this weekend in a U.S. Olympic trials tingling with emotion and farewell appearances.

The 10-day competition, which begins Friday, is the final obstacle to a historic Olympic bid by the smooth-running Johnson, who hopes to become the first male to win gold at 200 and 400 meters in the same games.

SOCCER

ALSAGER, England — Coach Arrigo Sacchi sprang a surprise in the Italian camp on Thursday by announcing five changes in his team to meet the Czech Republic at Anfield.

Out went the impressive striking partnership of Pierluigi Casiraghi and Gianfranco Zola, who played a major part in the 2-1 win over Russia, along with Juventus favorite Alessandro del Piero.

SOCCER

GLASGOW — To an outsider it might look like just an exceptionally noisy soccer match, but to Scottish fans the game against England on Saturday is a long-awaited chance to put one over the 'auld enemy'.

The Scots, who see themselves as a distinct society within Britain, dislike having to cede ultimate control over their affairs to a government based in far-off London.

SOCCER

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — River Plate of Argentina reached the final of the Libertadores Cup after beating Chile's Universidad 1-0 with a goal by midfielder Matias Almeyda in the first half Wednesday.

River will play the final against the winner of the game between Colombia's America and Brazil's Porto Alegre.

GOLF

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Michigan — The 96th U.S. Open golf championship started as scheduled on Thursday morning as officials succeeded in readying the Oakland Hills course despite damage from Wednesday's severe thunderstorm.

Ken Green, David Berganio and Bob Gilder teed off to lead the 156-player field onto a course that had been flooded by a two-hour downpour that dumped some two and a half inches (6.4 cms), collapsing a bunker and leaving standing water as deep as two to three feet (60 to 90 cms) on some fairways.



BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI, United States (June 12): Ernie Els of South Africa watches the ball as he chips onto the ninth green during his practice round for the 1996 U.S. Open at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The U.S. Open begins play June 13. Els won the June 6-9 Buick Open, finishing the tournament at 13-under-par and taking home U.S.$216,000.

(AFP PHOTO)

Meier Clings to Lead in Tour of Switzerland

BIENNE, Switzerland (Reuter) — Jan Svorada of the Czech Republic won the third stage of the tour of Switzerland on Thursday while Swiss Armin Meier clung to his two second lead in the overall rankings.

The stage appeared at one stage to be a battle between Italy's Alberto Elli and Germany's Rolf Aldag as the two men broke away at 30 km and quickly built an eight minute advantage.

But with 42 km remaining in the 219-km stage from Baden to Bienne, Elli and Aldag succumbed to the heat and wind as the pack pulled them back.

In a wild finish, Svorada led the charge across the finish line in four hours 57 minutes 41 seconds just ahead of Italy's Fabio Baldato and Germany's Erik Zabel.

A solid 22nd in the tightly bunched field, Meier maintained his two second lead on Italy's Michele Bartoli who crossed 35th, both men finishing in the same time as the winner.

McMillan Plays Through Pain to Inspire Sonics

SEATTLE (Reuter) — For everyone who saw the Seattle Supersonics lie down and die in game 3 of the NBA finals and counted them out of the series, nate McMillan has a message.

He's back.

Still badly bothered by a back injury that kept him on the bench the previous two games, the 10th-year veteran McMillan played an inspirational 14 minutes, contributing eight points and adding to the second-quarter momentum that kept the Sonics alive in the best-of-seven series against the Chicago Bulls.

"I think you see the confidence in our basketball team when he's on the basketball court," said Sonics Coach George Karl. "There's a belief out there very quickly."

McMillan's return couldn't have come at a more critical time, with the Sonics facing a humiliating sweep after making it to the finals for the first time in 17 years.

McMillan said he had something to prove — that the team that went 64-18 in the regular season could compete against the Bulls, which set a league record by going 72-10 and is trying for their fourth championship in six years.

"It's unbelievable how people just don't want to give us credit," McMillan said. "I'm glad to smack some people in the face again."

McMillan's entrance with 1:28 left in the first quarter brought a roar from the crowd and freed point guard Gary Payton from some of the relentless pressure from Michael Jordan and the Bulls.

"Nate came in and gave us a spark," said Payton, who scored a series-high 21 points. "It was really great for him to come back."

McMillan, who has played his entire career with Seattle since coming out of North Carolina state, said he has agonized mentally as well as physically over the painful sciatic nerve that also limited his playing time in the team's seven-game conference final series against Utah.

While pronounced medically fit to play, McMillan had listened to his body until Wednesday, when he struggled for an answer and got one from his brother Randy, who had traveled from North Carolina to see the game.



Jones Set For Two-Sport Show

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AFP) — Unbeaten super-middleweight champion Roy Jones will defend his title here today and play in a minor-league basketball game, the first such double-sport bid by a boxer.

Jones, 31-0 in the ring, will begin with an afternoon game as a guard for the Jacksonville Barracudas in their U.S. Basketball League matchup here against the Treasure Coast Tropics.

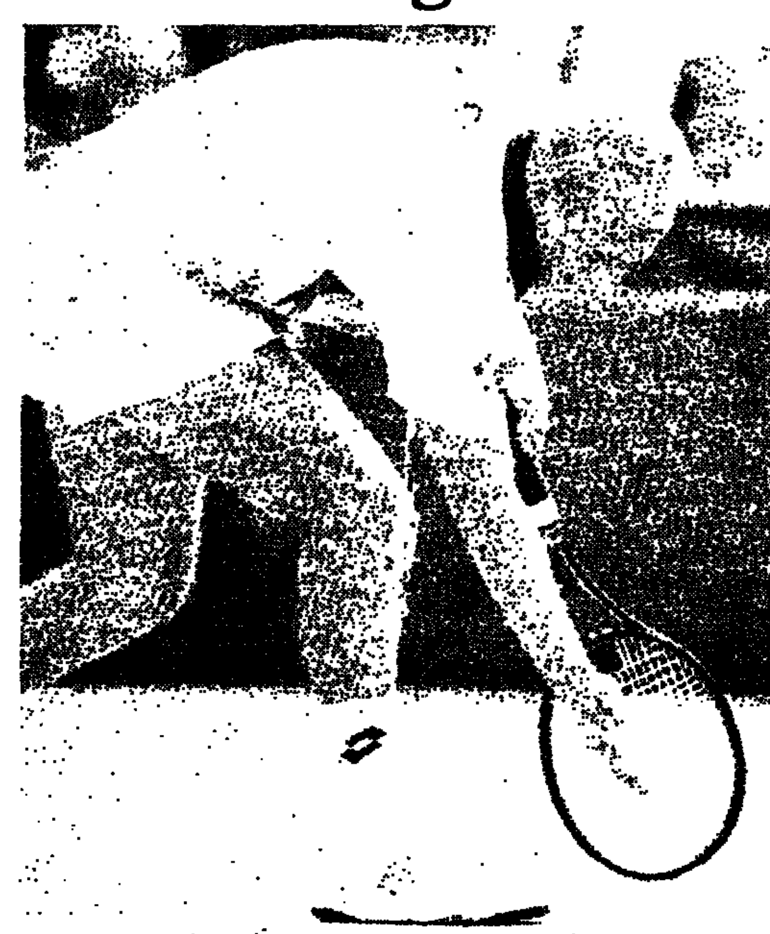
Hours later, he will enter the ring as a heavy favorite against Eric Lucas on the other side of the city.

Jones said he plans to only fight two more years, saying he cannot forget what has happened to ex-middleweight champion Gerald McClellan after being knocked out by Nigel Benn.

McClellan still has impaired sight, speech and hearing.

"I care about my well-being after boxing," Jones said. "This game is very dangerous. It doesn't take an accumulation of punches to mess you up. Gerald didn't have any hard fights before Benn and look what happened."

Edberg Ousts Ivanisevic, Muster Wins on Grass Again



LONDON (AP) — Stefan Edberg, tuning up for his final Wimbledon appearance, beat Goran Ivanisevic in a third-set tiebreaker to reach the quarterfinals of the Queen's Club Grass-Court Tournament.

Edberg, seeded 14th, rallied after losing the first set to defeat the fourth-seeded Ivanisevic 6-7 (7-3), 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) in a little over two hours.

Ivanisevic refused to shake the chair umpire's hand and stormed quickly off center court after his forehand return was called wide on match point.

Edberg, playing his 14th and final year on the tour, took control in the second set with his classic serve-and-volley game.

Ivanisevic received treatment on his left knee at 5-2 in the second set but did not appear seriously affected.

Edberg served for the match at 5-4 in the third set but failed to convert. Ivanisevic broke when Edberg let a passing shot go by — only for it to fall in.

In the tiebreaker, Ivanisevic double faulted to go down 3-1 and Edberg kept the lead the rest of the way.

Earlier, top-seeded Thomas Muster, No. 2 Boris Becker, and French Open finalist Michael Stich reached the quarterfinals with straight-set victories.

Stich recovered a break in the 2nd set and then broke again for a 6-4 7-5 victory over David Wheaton.

Muster beat Russia's Andrei Olhovskiy 6-2, 6-4, while Becker swept to a 6-4, 6-2 victory over American doubles specialist Jonathan Stark.

Muster's win was only his third ever on grass. After a Davis Cup win on grass earlier in the year, and his three-set win against Frenchman Guillaume Raoux on Tuesday, the Austrian clay-court expert is now 3-0 on grass this year.

Olhovskiy, a solid grass-court player with a Wimbledon victory over Jim Courier to his credit, gave Muster little to worry about.

Muster benefited from two consecutive double-faults to go up 3-2 in the first set, and a fiercely struck backhand forced an error to earn a second break for 5-2.

In the second set, one of many backhand passes gave Muster an early break for 1-0, and although Olhovskiy leveled at 4-4, Muster conceded just two points in the next two games to wrap up a comfortable victory in 54 minutes.

"I think I got my timing better today, especially on the return," Muster said. "I found pretty good tactics and was not always coming in. I'm not too happy with my serving, but my all-round game is there."

Muster is playing Queen's to prepare for Wimbledon, where he lost in the first round of each of his four appearances.

"I have been playing the same way for 20 years and it is not easy to change," he said. "I have to find a compromise between the way I naturally play and the way I have to play on grass. It takes an effort just thinking about every single shot. I still basically play a baseline game."

Muster, along with other top players such as Becker and Stich, is skipping the Atlanta Olympics. Although he played at the 1984 and 1992 games, he said tennis does not belong in the Olympics.

"It's the greatest thing for swimmers and track and field athletes," Muster said. "They're working four years for a medal, but we have four Grand Slams and the Masters and every week there is a goal. I don't think that tennis should be there."

Muster now meets Australian Mark Woodforde in his quarterfinal. Edberg plays American Todd Martin, Becker is against unseeded Australian Pat Rafter, and Stich plays South Africa's Wayne Ferreira.

